



FLY-TIPPING FEAR AS DUMP TO SHUT

REPORT BY ALEX ROSS

PLANS to close Stourbridge's council tip will result in increased fly-tipping, it has been claimed.

Dudley Council wants to sell of its main tip on Birmingham Street under plans to be considered later this month.

It wants to move operations to Leys Depot in Brierley Hill, making it a central borough base for waste disposal.

The Leys site is viewed as a more suitable base for handling household and recycled waste.

But the move has been criticised by Cradley and Wollscote ward Councillor Richard Body.

He said: "Closing down the tip will mean people will have to travel further to dispose of waste.

"I'm afraid this will only lead to an increase in fly-tipping, which is already a major issue for us.

"We need to make it easier for people to legally dispose their waste, not take it further away from them.

"I know in the areas around me, such as in Lutley Lane, we already have a big problem with illegally disposed waste. This will not help."

Depot

There is another tip at Anchor Lane, near Colesey, but that is run by Wolverhampton Council.

Under plans announced this week by the city council, Anchor Lane will shut along with a tip at Shaw Road with a new superdump being created in land off Hickman Avenue, West Park.

The plans to go before Dudley Council this month would also see the Lister Road depot in Dudley redeveloped.

It is thought to be at least a year before operations will switch to Leys Road.

Birmingham Street has long been the main site for waste disposal and people living in the south of the borough would face longer journeys to get to the tip, which is open 9am to 5am every day during winter.

Dudley Council's environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "At that site [Leys Depot] people won't have to be queuing up to go in, it will make it better for traffic flow.

"The site is large and we can do it properly.

"The queues coming onto the road is part of the thinking behind it and we thought it would be a suitable modern-day household recycling centre."

"The Stourbridge one had its uses but it has changed now to a recycling centre, it's got a recycling shop and other things we need to do and there isn't the space there to do it.

"We want to make it the best we can."

Also across the borough, there are 50 recycling centres, many situated on the side of streets or in supermarket car parks.

SNEAK PEEK INSIDE HISTORIC HAGLEY HALL



Lord Cobham, who is opening up the doors to his historic family home Hagley Hall, in the stunning library

LORD Cobham is throwing open the doors to his home allowing visitors a peek inside the lavish rooms of the historic Hagley Hall.

Tours around the 18th century hall are now on offer until March 12.

The 12th Viscount Cobham, whose family have owned the 300-acre estate near Halesowen since the 1700s, said the tours were interesting as the hall is still a home.

"The house is full of little anecdotes and people love the tours, especially because it is a family house and always has been," said Lord Cobham, Christopher Lyttelton.

"There's lots of little anecdotes which come to life when people come along to one of the tours," he added. "I'm sure people will find them really quite fascinating."

History

The tours coincide with the proposals for a £2.5 million visitor centre which is set to be built in the grounds of the hall as part of a tourism project. The work is set to be completed in 2018.

The new visitor centre will contain elements of history along with various education

facilities and a play area. Other plans including a 178-space car park on land off the A456 are also in the pipeline.

Lord Cobham added: "I'm keen to see the place developed as a leisure estate because we want to keep people interested. Work is expected to be completed next year."

Tours around Hagley Hall run every day at 1.30pm and 3pm until March 12 with the exception of Thursday February 23.

Tickets are priced from £5 for children, £10 for adults and £25 for a family ticket. Call 01562 887290.

CLOSED

Last Ramsden's quits Black Country

THE Black Country's last remaining Harry Ramsden's has closed. The fish and chips restaurant only opened in Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, a year ago when it replaced fish and chip shop Chamberlains.

Chief executive Tom Crowley said: "It has been decided that this outlet is no longer viable for Harry Ramsden's."

The firm was unable to confirm how many jobs will be lost.

Harry Ramsden's is owned by West Bromwich-based frozen chicken company 2 Sisters Food Group, headed by Wolverhampton-born Ranjit Singh Boparan.

INDUSTRY

Hinge maker moves in £3.5m expansion

A BLACK Country manufacturer has doubled the size of its base as part of a £3.5 million expansion, which will see the firm creating jobs.

Hinge maker A Perry & Co has moved onto a larger site, next door to its home for more than half a century on Doulton Road in Rowley Regis.

Five jobs have been created with scope for more to be taken on at the firm's new 90,000 sq m warehouse and distribution base, two-storey offices and two large manufacturing units.

FINANCE

Building society sees profits dip

PROFITS fell for the Tipton & Coseley Building Society last year despite a big increase in mortgage lending.

The society, which has its headquarters in Owen Street, Tipton, saw the group's net profit down from £2.31 million in 2015 to £1.69m.

Mortgage lending last year totalled £66.58m – up nearly 28 per cent from £52.08m in 2015.

The 116-year-old building society's gross capital increased to £37m – up almost five per cent on the previous year – and total assets were £372.4m, a rise of two per cent on 2015.

INSIDE

TANK TRIBUTE TO HERO STAN



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Ball in memory of submariner Paul



Paul McCann – anniversary

FAMILY, friends and comrades are travelling from all over the world to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of Halesowen submariner Paul McCann and raise cash for children.

They will include Commander Iain Breckenridge and crew members who were on the submarine HMS Tireless when disaster struck, claiming the lives of Leading Operator Mechanic McCann, aged 32, and Anthony Huntrod, aged 20, on March 21 2007. They were killed when a device exploded during an operation under the Arctic ice cap.

Keen sportsman Paul, who played cricket for the Royal Navy, had recently got engaged and when tragedy struck was due to leave the Royal Navy.

Student

The former Earls High School student intended to marry fiancée Julie Day and move to America. She and her family will be crossing the Atlantic to attend the ball at the Copthorne Hotel at Merry Hill on March 18.

The Royal Navy team played a charity match against Halesowen Cricket Club

in memory of Paul in 2007 which was so successful it prompted his parents Brian and Pauline into creating a charity in his name. It has raised £80,000 to help children in the Halesowen area.

Mr McCann, who will be attending the ball with his family from their current home in Spain, said: "Never does a day go by when my wife Pauline and I do not think and talk of Paul. The charity brings us happiness."

To donate a gift for auction or raffle and or to attend contact Laura Payne at lauraseventures@gmail.com.

Borough leisure centres have made a £5m loss

DUDLEY'S leisure centres made a loss of more than £5 million over the last three years.

The figures from 2013 to 2016 show that the three centres had an expenditure of more than £13m but an income of just over £8m during that period.

Council bosses have revealed they want to demolish the three centres – in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen – and replace them with two new state-of-the-art facilities, proposed for Dudley and Lye.

They calculate this could saved the cash-strapped authority £1.75m.

The council say now is the time to act as the centres are due essential repair, which would cost £2m.

More than 4,000 residents have signed a petition to keep the centres open.

Now opposition UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood has insisted that the council must find out why the centres have made such a loss.

He said: "We need to ensure value for money for taxpayers. The council need to look at why the centres have made such a loss."

"It seems the services the council provide to residents are not marketed well enough to generate more income. The leisure centres are a vital service and must be protected."

Shortfall

Crystal Leisure Centre is making the biggest loss, with a shortfall of over £1.5m between 2015 and 2016.

Dudley Leisure Centre made a loss of over £500,000 and Halesowen Leisure Centre lost over £600,000 during the same period.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The expenses at the leisure centres are far higher than the income, so the council is having to fund them. The facilities are old and need to be upgraded. The centres have a time span of around 30 years but they're more than that – Halesowen Leisure Centre is over 50 years old."

"I must stress, the proposed closure of the three centres is years away and will only happen following full consultation and scrutiny, and after two new centres are built."

Designs are unveiled for Foley statue



Frank Foley on a park bench – one of the suggested designs by Steve Field for the statue in Mary Stevens Park

INITIAL designs for a statue to honour Frank Foley have been unveiled – but there is debate over exactly where it should be placed.

Foley, who retired to Stourbridge and is buried in the town, became known as the 'British Schindler' after repeatedly risking his life to save Jews in Hitler's Germany.

It is estimated that the Berlin-based British spy, while working undercover as a passport official, helped 10,000 Jews escape from Nazi Germany. He even entered

Sachsenhausen concentration camp to presented visas to the camp authorities so that Jews could be freed to leave the country.

In recognition of his bravery, £40,000 has been raised for a bronze statue at Mary Stevens Park, close to the intelligence officer's former home in Eveson Road and the cemetery where he is buried.

Among those supporting the campaign are Stourbridge Conservative MP Margot James and Dud-

ley North Labour MP Ian Austin.

At a meeting of the Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee potential designs were presented by the council's resident public artist Steve Field. One of the designs has Foley sitting on a bench with a briefcase, stamping passports, accompanied by birds representing freedom. A standing version has also been proposed.

Mr Foley died in 1958. There is already a statue in his honour near his birthplace in Somerset.

College and club kick off new academy of football

A NEW football academy which is a partnership between Dudley College and Stourbridge Football Club has opened its doors to players aiming to take their first steps into professional football.

The academy will combine football training with a BTEC sports qualification, giving a path into the professional game, while also developing broader skills suitable to a range of sports-related careers.

Dudley College sports curriculum manager, Rachel Corns, said: "Dudley College has already got a track record of providing players to Stourbridge FC, so this new partnership will formalise the relationship."

"Chris Knight, ex-England Colleges player and ex-Dudley student, is playing in the first team and our current student, Jake Brigdale, is a youth team player involved with the first team squad. We're hoping by working closer together we will have many more of these success stories in the future."

Students will study for up to two years for a diploma in sport coaching, development and fitness, alongside regular training sessions and match commitments. The academy squad will be competing in the Conference Youth Alliance.

Andy Bullingham, vice chairman and head of junior football at Stourbridge FC, said: "The club has had a marvellous cup run and our young talent has been part of that achievement. We have a long established youth development programme and this takes it to the next level."

GP in court on sex assault charges

A GP from Dudley charged with 18 sexual assaults involving ten patients will deny the allegations, a judge was told.

Dr Jaswant Rathore did not formally enter any plea to the charges when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court. But his barrister Mr Alan Jenkins told the hearing: "There will be not guilty pleas to all charges."

The trial is set to start at the same court on November 27 is expected to last up to three weeks. A plea and trial preparation hearing of the case is scheduled for May 22.

Rathore, aged 59, of Ploughmans Walk, Wall Heath, worked at a surgery in the Dudley area and previously served on the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group.

He was remanded on bail.

Easter musical to return to town hall

LOVE Dudley is staging its Easter production again this year. There will be performances of the Christian musical, which tells the Easter story with original songs, in Dudley Town Hall on April 14 and 15 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 from www.easterproduction.org.uk

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MP backing bill aiming to tackle cost of parking

HALESOWEN'S MP has warned that a lack of free parking in town centres is driving people to shop online.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris told the Commons he was concerned that local authorities were profiting from parking charges at the expense of the public.

The Conservative MP spoke in support of a Government-backed bill, which will see councils given greater flexibility to reduce or scrap parking charges in the car parks they own.

Mr Morris said: "There has long been a suspicion amongst drivers that parking charges and penalties are being used to increase the amount of money that local authorities can spend.

"Both Sandwell and Dudley recorded nearly half-a-million pounds between them in profit from parking charges," he added.

Consulted

"Local people want, and deserve, to have faith that this money is being used properly."

The bill will also mean that local organisations will need to be consulted if councils wish to increase parking fees.

Mr Morris added: "These changes intend to make it easier for local authorities to lower their charges to promote economic vitality of our town centres and, importantly, to ensure that if an increase is to be considered, the right steps are taken to make sure they are properly considered."

Labour hold seat at by-election

LABOUR held on to a Dudley Council seat in the by-election for the St Thomas's ward with more than 60 per cent of the vote.

NHS biomedical scientist Shaneila Mughal, a former Castle High School and Dudley College student, was elected after receiving 1,466 votes.

UKIP's Phil Wimlet took second place with 653, Conservative candidate Jonathan Elliot polled 249 votes and the Green Party's Francis Sheppard 52. The turnout was 23.5 per cent. The by-election last Thursday following the resignation of Glenis Simms in December.

Councillor Mughal, who lives in the ward with her husband and three children, joins fellow Labour ward councillors Shaukat Ali and Steve Waltho.

Gig for 'Titan of the Telecaster'

AMERICAN guitarist Bill Kirchen is bringing his musical talent to Stourbridge. The 'Titan of the Telecaster' returns to the UK in March. His tour will stop at The Talbot Hotel in High Street on Friday, March 24.

Wife in justice vow over asbestos death



Jeanette and David Priest

A GRIEVING widow is launching legal action against Tesco, after her husband died from asbestos-related cancer.

Father-of-three David Priest, 69, was a manager for the supermarket chain between 1974 and 1985 at various shops in the West Midlands, helping to oversee expansions at supermarkets in Dudley, Smethwick and Edgbaston.

He recalled asbestos boards and tiles being cut up as part of building work, and said he would help to clear up afterwards, his family said.

After being diagnosed last January with mesothelioma, a terminal cancer caused by exposure to asbestos dust, Mr Priest only lived for seven months.

In the last weeks he was confined to bed, too weak to even eat. Robbed of the retirement they had planned to spend together, 55-year-old Jeanette Priest has vowed to get justice for her husband after they instructed lawyers Slater and Gordon.

Mr Priest, originally from Tipton, had worked in the food retail industry since leaving school. His wife, who also worked for the company, said:

"He was a stickler for doing things properly and would always make sure that areas were cleaned so the dust and debris didn't accumulate. That was the only place he could remember coming into contact with asbestos."

Mr Priest, who has seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren, moved to Blackpool with Jeanette in 1990 and ran The Andora Hotel.

A Tesco spokesman said: "We take the health and safety of our employees extremely seriously but given this is an ongoing legal matter, we are unable to provide further comment."

Council pays £22k for damage from potholes

DUDLEY Council paid out more than £22,000 in compensation for damage caused by potholes during a two-year period.

New figures reveal 270 claims were lodged by drivers against the council between 2014 and 2016 over damage caused by crumbling roads.

It comes after it was announced the council would be given funding to fix potholes.

Almost 1,000 people complained in total about damaged roads over the two-year period.

But opposition Conservative councillor Patrick Harley said the figures were just the 'tip of the iceberg'.

He said: "The money paid is peanuts compared to the overall budget but it's still money the council has lost. But the money is the tip of the iceberg as there's no doubt even more people who have had their cars damaged and haven't bothered to claim compensation.

"It's a real problem. When they first reduced the road budget four years ago we warned the council that the roads would suffer."

The authority has recently received confirmation of £238,000 of additional funding to repair the roads.

Urgent

Dudley council's environmental boss, Councillor Hillary Bills, said the authority is working to deal with as many pothole issues as possible.

She said: "We have a robust system in place with inspection teams who identify road defects such as potholes, with the most severe cases highlighted for urgent attention.

"Clearly, we have to prioritise the most serious problems above others but we are working to deal with as many as we can. We also have a busy planned maintenance schedule in place including resurfacing to protect and repair borough roads wherever possible and have just received confirmation of £238,000 of additional funding to tackle potholes after our bid was submitted quickly by officers."

Last month it was revealed millions was going to be ploughed into fixing potholes by the Government in the West Midlands, including £1.22m for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

South Staffordshire Conservative MP Gavin Williamson said: "The state of our roads is consistently raised with me by residents and remains a great source of frustration for drivers."

Young Lewis steps into Billy role



Four youngsters take on the title role, including Lewis Smallman, of West Bromwich, left

A YOUNG Black Country star is to grace the stage Birmingham Hippodrome as it welcomes the first ever UK tour of smash-hit musical Billy Elliot.

Lewis Smallman, from West Bromwich, will share the title role throughout the show's run from March 8 to April 29.

The musical, a winner of 10 Tony and five Olivier awards, will hit the Birmingham Hippodrome stage for the first time ever.

Lewis, who trained at Arabesque Dance Academy and Renaissance Arts in Birmingham, has previously appeared in the English Youth Ballet's Swan Lake and as Kurt in The Sound of Music at Sutton Town Hall. The 12-year-old is also a keen gymnast with Sandwell Flyers Gymnastic Academy.

The musical is set in a northern mining town against the background of the 1980s miners' strike. It follows Billy's journey from boxing to ballet class where he discovers a passion for dance that inspires his family and whole community and changes his life forever.

Sharing the role of Billy with Lewis are Adam Abbou, Matthew Lyons and Haydn May.

They join Annette McLaughlin as Mrs Wilkinson, Martin Walsh as dad, Scott Garnham as Tony and Andrea Miller as grandma. Completing the cast are Henry Farmer, Elliot Stiff and Samuel Torpey, Lilly Cadwallender, Evie Martin and Italia Ross.

Tickets start £25 via www.birminghamhippodrome.com or on 0844 338 5000.



Lewis Smallman as Billy Elliot

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roadworks start on a busy route

A MAJOR roadworks scheme between Stourbridge, Kingswinford and Brierley Hill got under way this week.

Work on High Street, Amblecote, at the junction with Bretell Lane, is due to last for three months.

Traffic lights and pedestrian crossings will be revamped with work taking place on weekdays between 9.30am and 3.30pm and on some Sundays.

Highways chiefs said the works, costing £250,000, were being carried out to cut delays on one of the main routes in and out of Stourbridge.

Arrest warrant over dog incident

AN arrest warrant has been issued for a man accused of being in charge of a dog that attacked an assistance dog.

Darren Sharpe, aged 46, of Brooke Street, Dudley, was due to appear at Dudley Magistrates' Court on Thursday, following an alleged attack in the High Street on January 16 involving a Staffordshire bull terrier attacking a German shepherd cross assistance dog.

A warrant for Sharpe's arrest was issued by the district judge because he failed to turn up to magistrates court to answer the charge.

Council staff set for strike ballot

COUNCIL workers in Dudley are set to vote on whether to strike over proposed changes to their working conditions.

Staff rejected proposals put forward by council bosses, which could see some workers made to pay for parking and mileage allowances slashed, in an initial ballot to 'test the water'.

Unite union said workers would be balloted on whether to strike if the council does not back down on changes which affect 280 staff.

Beacon help getting to grips with technology

SOME of the latest technology innovations will be showcased at an event next week.

The Beacon Centre in Sedgley is hosting a tech week from Monday to February this week. It aims to take away the fear factor that some people have about using some of the latest gadgets.

The free event will showcase a wide range of equipment and technology which mainly, but not exclusively, supports those with sight loss.

Care on the agenda

DUDLEY Council will make a presentation at a conference to show how care is conducted in the borough. The National Care Association hosts the spring conference Promoting Dignity in Care, with the National Dignity Council, on March 16 at The Regis Conference and Banqueting Centre.



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Discharge of op patient was 'gross failure', says coroner

A GRANDFATHER died after wrongly being discharged from hospital – with medics admitting he 'would have survived' if his condition was treated as an emergency, an inquest heard.

Jeffrey Bennett, aged 65, from Coronation Road, Tipton, admitted himself to Sandwell Hospital on September 25 when a wound from a previous operation on his groin would not stop bleeding. Upon arrival he was assessed by a junior doctor who diagnosed a post-operation wound infection.

He was later discharged with antibiotics and was found dead at home the following day. Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique declared a 'gross failure in basic medical care'. He gave a narrative conclusion with a contribution of neglect on the trust's part.

Mr Bennett, who was a retired foundry worker, had undergone several surgical procedures in August, due to the leaking wound – which presented as a 'false aneurysm' from a previous vascular operation.

Black Country Coroners' Court heard how Mr Bennett called an ambulance from home in the early hours of September 25.

Stable

When admitted to A&E at Sandwell Hospital, he was seen by a junior doctor who then spoke to senior consultant on shift Dr Barnett Musiime. At that point, his blood pressure and pulse were stable. None of the doctors were aware of his medical history and no notes were recorded by Dr Musiime, the court heard.

Dr Shekhar Chillala, who was the consultant in charge on the night of Mr Bennett's admittance, but did not see him, said: "There was cause for concern here and a vascular opinion should have been sought. He would have survived if he had been admitted." A post mortem gave the cause of death as hypovolemic shock due to

Report by Clare Butler

the blood loss. An investigation was carried out by the Trust following Mr Bennett's death.

Dr Gabrielle Downey, consultant and tribunal member, stated: "My conclusions are that the trust did not give the care he needed. He would have been alive today – this was an unsafe discharge."

"On the next staff training day it needs to be made aware each step of the way how we let this man die."

Mr Siddique said he would not be writing to the trust but would keep a check on when the updated measures had been implemented.

Mr Bennett was described by his daughter as being a 'decent, hard working Black Country man'.

Ms Bennett, a mother-of-two, said: "He was the best dad in the world."

In a statement issued from the trust, Medical Director Roger Stedman said: "We are sincerely sorry for the failure in our care when we were treating Mr Bennett. We have met his family and been open about what happened."

"It should not have happened. We have learned from this incident to ensure that patients who attend our emergency department with a major accident or condition are always reviewed by a senior doctor before they are discharged home."

Delight as families are write on target

FAMILIES are celebrating after completing a literacy course at Cornerstone pre-school in Rowley Regis.

The pre-school, based at The Flame Community Church in Cardale Street, has organised various activities designed to improve children's literacy skills and get them ready to start school.

Cornerstone pre-school is one of 10 organisations across Sandwell who have received a £500 grant from the council along with specialist training for their staff to help them deliver these special sessions.

The project termed 'Raising Early Achievement in Literacy (REAL)' was first piloted in Sandwell in 2013 with funding and training provided by the National Children's Bureau as part of a Department for Education (DfE) drive to improve the skills of two to five-year-olds.

The project has proved to be a great success and Sandwell Council has vowed to continue to support and fund the initiative.

With a mixture of home visits and sessions at the Rowley Regis nursery, staff encourage parents and carers to read more with their children, learn new rhymes together and do more writing and drawing. The sessions are spread over a period of six months.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services attended the celebration event at Cornerstone pre-school. He said: "Making sure children in Sandwell are ready for school one of my key priorities and this project is a great example of



Parent Beverley Need with her son Harry Hogan, aged two, and parent Hayley Mills with her son Elliot Jones, three, with Councillor Simon Hackett and other children

making sure our children are given the best start. I was thrilled to come along to this celebration and it was great to hear from the parents first-hand what they and their children have achieved through this project."

The figures from previous courses in

Sandwell prove that this way of working with families has significantly improved children's skills on all levels. The children all showed a marked improvement in all areas of literacy with parents growing in confidence in supporting and teaching their children.

Marching on with arts roadshows

A MONTH-LONG roadshow of workshops and sessions to help artists of all ages get creative and talk about the future of the arts is coming to Sandwell.

Called 'mARTch' – art in March – the event will give artists, dancers, photographers, poets and writers the chance to tell the council what more can be done for them. They will also be able to add their own creativity to a piece of community art, to go on display later this year. Family-friendly workshops and consultation events are planned for all six towns.

Leisure chief, Councillor Richard Marshall, said: "mARTch is a great opportunity for local artists – whatever their talent – to get involved in shaping the future of arts in Sandwell."

Events announced so far: Saturday March 4, 10am-4pm, Brasshouse Community Centre, Smethwick; Saturday 18, 10am-4pm, Oak House Museum, West Bromwich; Sunday 19, 10am-4pm, Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath (all workshops are from 11am-3pm).

It continues on Wednesday 22, 4-8pm, Conegre Youth Arts Centre, Tipton (workshop, 4.30-7.30pm); Thursday 23, 10am-4pm, Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery (workshop, 11am-3pm); Saturday 25, 10am-4pm, Oldbury Library (workshop, 11am-3pm).

Back to the sixties with Herman and co

LEGENDARY names from the 1960s music scene will come together for a special Midlands show next month.

Herman's Hermits and the Swinging Blue Jeans will lead a list of well-known artists who have spent more than half a century in music.

The Sensational 60s Experience will arrive at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Friday, March 3. For tickets call 0844 8713011 or log on at www.atg tickets.com/birmingham

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Tank is a big tribute to unsung heroes like Stan

By Marion Brennan

THE story of a Second World War hero – who was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal but never spoke of it – has re-emerged after a flurry of interest on social media in a British Army tank that is parked on a Black Country industrial estate.

The 60-ton Chieftain tank was placed there by site owner Tony Whittaker more than 20 years ago for a very special reason – and now a new generation is learning about its origins.

"I first knew about it when I went to the bank last week and the girl behind the counter said 'I've seen your tank on Facebook'," said Mr Whittaker. "After that a few people asked me about it."

The 72-year-old businessman bought the tank in 1994 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings – in particular, one man's part in it.

Sergeant Major Stanley Longmore had been despatched to the Normandy beaches in 1944 after distinguishing himself in the Battle of El Alamein, a British victory which turned the tide in the North African Campaign.

When he returned to civvy street, he got a job as a moulder in a brickyard in The Delph, Brierley Hill, where Tony, then aged 15, was apprenticed to him.

Saved

Two years later, the teenager saved Stan's life after rescuing him from a river in Hereford where they were fishing. Thirty years later, Tony was rewarded for his good deed when he was contacted by his widow to tell him Stanley had died and left him his wartime medals in his will as a thank you 'for saving my life.'

"I never knew what he'd done in the war, much less that he'd received the DSM from the King at Buckingham Palace. He never talked about it," said Tony, who lives in Wall Heath.

"There aren't enough Stan Longmores in this world so when I had the opportunity to buy the tank around the time of the D-Day landings anniversary, I took it, and put it on the industrial estate in honour of Stan and those like him."



Tony Whittaker holds a photo of Stan whilst son Steve Whittaker stands on Brierley Hill landmark, the Chieftain Tank



Sgt Major Stanley Longmore during the war years



For distinguished conduct – one of Stan's war medals

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Ghosts? No real scary thing is Blair's back

FIGURES revealed under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that over a three-year period West Midlands Police received 15 reports of ghosts, 55 of witches, and two zombies.

My initial reaction was what a waste of valuable police time, probably down to adolescent students with too much time on their hands, or daft drunks and drugies who think they see people coming back from the dead all the time.

THEN I heard that Tony Blair was making a comeback in an attempt to stop Britain from leaving the EU. Suddenly the world seems a much scarier place.

AN official from the local NUT was on local radio recently painting a bleak picture indeed about cutbacks to education budgets in the area.

"We could soon be getting to the point where schools can't afford classroom assistants, and there are no educational psychologists," she said in almost funeral tones.

Maybe I'm out of the loop, but I never even knew there was such a thing as an educational psychologist in your average school. And when I was at school there was no such thing as a classroom assistant. Unless you counted the milk monitor.

Of course, it is always a tragedy when somebody faces losing their job, and the teaching unions are there to represent their members. But trying to paint it as the end of the education system smacks of hyperbole. By the way, hyperbole is like exaggeration. If you went to a school without psychologists or classroom assistants.

NATIONAL Geographic explorer Daniel Raven-Ellison has been on a walk. A rather long walk. Just over 1,047 miles to be precise, around every city and national park in Great Britain. And out of all of these places, where does he like best?

"The wilderness and scenery makes Dudley one of the best places I've been in the UK," he says.

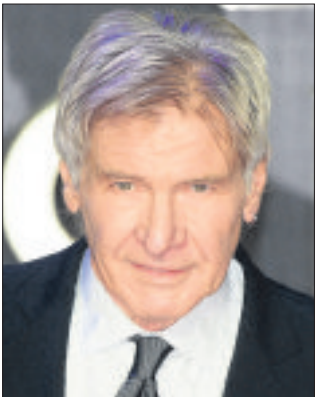
Wilderness? To be honest, I thought they had put a stop to that sort of thing when they closed the old Goldsmith's nightclub back in the 90s.

He carried out his research by wandering around with a set of electrodes on his head, which looks like some kind of sci-fi torture device from an episode of The Avengers. He said the brain sensors detected "high levels of interest".

I bet they did. But it's much harder doing your shopping on a Saturday afternoon.

SPOTTED an intriguing sign directing me towards "adult snacks" at my local supermarket. Can't tell you how disappointed I was when I found they were just fancy crisps.

Audit on ministers' vehicles showed 200 had gone



Pilot Harrison Ford: A near-miss or was it actually a near-hit?



Fake news: Type 'Putin is dead' into Google and you'll get 84,000 responses



Mystery: How does David Davis' text about Dianne Abbott make front page news

Days when limos just went missing

THERE'S a shortage of cars in Ghana. When the new government took office recently, it ordered an audit of all the ministers' limos on the books. About 200 vehicles, including 122 Toyota Land Cruisers, have mysteriously vanished. It is suspected that some have been taken home by members of the former government. Easily done, isn't it? One day you accidentally take home an office ballpoint pen, the next a few paperclips, the next a Land Cruiser. One of the former government's spin-doctors has accused the new administration of "embarrassing the country in the sight of the international community" by highlighting the issue. It's a fine old political tradition. If the news is bad, shoot the messenger.

INCIDENTALLY, if you're sniggering at Ghana's expense, ask yourself how many of Britain's warplanes, tanks, frigates, submarines and destroyers are where they are supposed to be, and fit for action. Borrowing a government-owned limo is a form of theft but having half our military hardware in workshops, dry docks or cannibalised to keep the other half working is a form of treason.

GREAT mysteries of our time. How does David Davis' unflattering text about Dianne Abbott, sent to one of his parliamentary 'friends', miraculously get from the 'friend' to the front pages of the newspapers? Unless, of course, some friends are not friends at all, but complete bounders.

GREAT names demand great dramas. How could Harrison Ford fly his aircraft into John Wayne Airport without something exciting happening? The something in question was one of those incidents we bizarrely call a near-miss, when it is actually a near-hit.

AH, the drama, the glory, the power. The

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



steam locomotive Tornado is pulling trains on the Settle-to-Carlisle line and what a magnificent sight it is. I recall a steam-hauled trip on the Severn Valley Railway some years ago in the company of a bloke who once went to school by train. His memory of the golden age of steam was not so golden. In all the seven years of his secondary education, he never once arrived at school with a clean shirt. So that's drama, glory, power – and smuts.

THE Russian news website Sputnik stands accused of pumping out fake news. But if the Kremlin is dealing in fakery, it is probably as much sinned against as sinning. For example, type 'Putin is dead' into Google and you'll get 84,000 responses.

THE Early Learning Centre stands accused of "stone age" attitudes to gender for a marketing leaflet showing little boys dressed as heroes and little girls as princesses. A campaign called Let Toys Be Toys thunders: "Girls are passive princesses while wise, smart, active boys save the day? Very disappointing." The inconvenient fact, as most of us who have raised daughters will confirm, is that almost before they are out of their own pram, little girls want a mini-pram of their own and a baby doll to go in it. We tried really hard to rear a gender-neutral child but at 18 months, on her first trip to the big toy shop she plunged into the display and returned embracing a Tiny Tears and cooing: "Dolly, dolly, dolly!" in pure joy. It is in their genes.

I AM not alone in being unimpressed with Let

Toys Be Toys. From a cyberstorm of derision, I liked this: "Where can I find a neutral coloured androgenous superperson costume for my non gender-specific child?"

TESS Newall thought her cherished 150-year-old wedding dress had been lost when a dry cleaners in Edinburgh ceased trading. But after her story went viral, a renewed search of the premises found it. Such is the power of the internet. It reminds me of my YouTube item on malt-based food supplements of the 1950s. It went Viral.

AN Anglican preacher has been suspended after emailing the pro-EU MP Anna Soubry: "Traitors are long remembered. May you burn in hell, you evil bitch!" To his credit he signed off: "Pastoral Co-ordinator, delivering well-being." Sweet.

AFTER relating some of your tales of woe about the insurance cartel – sorry, industry – my own renewal note arrived this week. The premium has shot up by 12 per cent. But that's not the worst of it. What really niggles is that the only way of renewing the policy is on the internet and you don't even get a policy document or cover note; you have to find them in cyberspace and print them yourself. In what pig-ignorant, thick-headed corner of commerce is this regarded as customer service?

MEANWHILE, another reader, another moan. His 86-year-old mother, having loyally stayed with the same insurers for 20 years, was presented with a £202 bill to renew her house contents policy. He went online and found identical cover for £38. He informed the current insurers who promptly dropped their premium from £202 to £64. In the language of insurancespeak, loyal=mug.

TALKING POINT

One word to ballet SNOBs – shush!

I AM a ballet fan, a convert who came late to an appreciation of the art of the dance. I encountered ballet through my job as a journalist and by the good fortune of having one of Europe's finest ballet companies, Birmingham Royal Ballet, move to my region from London some 27 years ago, where it had been Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.

Ballet has provided some of my most enchanting nights in the theatre. I have been spellbound by the beautiful elegance of the ballerinas, the strength of the male dancers and enchanted by the sumptuous, dream-like quality of the grand ballets. I have thrilled to the vigour and glamour of Matthew Bourne's productions, including his recent hit The Red Shoes, and enjoyed the charm, wit and excellence David Bintley has brought to Birmingham's repertoire.

But there is one thing that I don't like about ballet. There is, thankfully a minority, but ever present, an element in the ballet audience who seem to resent the rest of the audience.

They 'shush' at perfectly reasonably behaved audience members when they cough, admonish children who don't sit as still as statues, I even heard of one of these 'share not our ballet' types – or SNOB for short – chiding the person in the seat in front of them for having the temerity to be tall. Did she want him to crouch! I have seen them at almost every ballet event, looking daggers, rolling their eyes, and using passive aggressive tactics on people who they obviously don't think belong in the audience for a ballet.

I even heard one comment that it looked as if many of those in the audience were on benefits. They were referring to the likes of you and me. By benefits I guess they don't mean a pension, as sad to say, most of these SNOBs are in the well-heeled senior category.

The average ballet fan is not the sort of hotdog munching, phone chattering, Slushie slurping character from your worst cinema multiplex nightmare. The worst I have ever come across is someone with a hacking cough who should have remained in their sick bed. Those who attend ballet have spent a lot on a ticket to enjoy an art that will, in this age of shrinking subsidies, surely die unless it finds a fresh younger audience.

The moaners want to keep ballet to themselves. Many of the dancers don't come from privileged backgrounds, there are several Billy and Milly Elliots. So hurry for Bintley and Bourne, maintaining high standards whilst creating productions that are genuinely popular.

I saw one of the old guard groan when the audience rose in their seats to give The Red Shoes a standing ovation at The Hippodrome. Whether he thought it undeserved or was just annoyed that his view was briefly obscured, I know not. Perhaps I should have shushed him.

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This place is not difficult to find, in fact thousands of motorists drive past this area every single day and a further

bonus is that this area is right on the high street.

So without further ado I will reveal this area...it's High Street Pensnett opposite Russell's Hall Hospital. I hear you say 'NO, there are double yellow lines at that location'. Yes, there are, but today's inconsiderate motorists appear to think these lines are in fact for parking on.

Regularly I drive along this car parking area and find myself amazed at how many lawbreakers are taking advantage of this free parking with what appears to have no time limits.

I have even contacted Dudley Highways about this gratuity for motorists and they insisted it is being looked into.

So, come on and be fair. Leave the pavements for whom they were intended, pedestrians, or take the responsibility of any consequence that could take place with such dangerous inconsiderate parking.

Don't let a fatality of a pedestrian be the wake-up call you need.

PETE LOWE
Brierley Hill

Fined more for litter than a broken jaw

WATCHING the local TV news the other day I saw four youths going into court charged with throwing a brick at a taxi, resulting in the breaking an elderly women's jaw.

As it was their first conviction, or the first time they were caught, they were given a 12-month youth order and fined £50.

A few weeks ago a pal of mine was fined £75 for dropping a cigarette end in Dudley High Street, no problem with that although it was his first offence.

Back to the court, as the eldest youth was going into court he turned and flicked his cigarette end onto the pavement, as this is quite clearly recorded on the TV, I assume he will be fined £75.

The fact that it's £50 fine for breaking a woman's jaw and £75 for throwing a cigarette on the floor also tests my comprehension of right and wrong!

KEITH DAY
Gornal Wood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Making a point to help the hedgehogs

WE were saddened, though not surprised, to hear that fewer gardeners are spotting hedgehogs. We have long known hedgehog numbers are in decline. Since the turn of the century numbers have dropped by around a third in urban areas and a half in rural ones. A major factor in their decline is loss and fragmentation of habitat.

We have joined forces with People's Trust for Endangered Species on a project called Hedgehog Street. We ask people to create 13cm square gaps in the bottom of their boundary fences and walls to join up usable habitat, and to ask their neighbours, and their neighbours' neighbours to do the same until the whole street is accessible to hedgehogs! To date we have had over 42,000 people sign up.

To find out more see www.hedgehogstreet.org
FAY VASS
British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Speaker Bercow is out of line

WHO the Hell does he think he is? John Bercow, a puffed-up pipsqueak if ever there was one, who has for years presided over matters in the House of Commons, now believes it is within his authority to decide British foreign policy.

Having welcomed and fawned over some of the world's leaders with the worst possible records on human rights, he has decided that he has to make a stand in the matter of the President of the USA addressing Parliament. Not a peep regarding the visit of the Chinese leader of course.

He welcomed the Emir of Kuwait in a stomach-churning address which commenced: "Your Highness, it is my privilege to welcome you here to our Parliament." This is the leader of a country with a dire record on human rights.

Bercow has ignored the first rule for a speaker, which is to remain neutral.

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Canal reduced to trickle by maintenance



Who pulled the plug? But the water was drained away for essential maintenance work on the canal in Wordsley

DREDGING work has begun on the Stourbridge Canal, as part of ongoing work to renovate the waterways in the Black Country.

This was the scene at the locks in Wordsley, close to The White House Cone Museum of Glass

Earlier this month it was announced that the Canal &

River Trust was carrying out essential dredging works on the 200-year-old waterway network via Land & Water Services Ltd.

Dredging is vital to keep the waterways open for navigation, as well as ensuring canals are safe and in good order, dealing with vegetation and improving wildlife habitats.

Hospice staff move for revamp

STAFF from a hospice in the Black Country will relocate to another centre to allow work on the site's £3 million upgrade to begin this Spring.

Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge is due to undergo a major refurbishment to its day services unit off the Hagley Road.

While renovations are taking place non-clinical staff will move into the Mary Stevens Centre, formerly the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, lo-

cated behind the hospice in Stourbridge.

The move comes after an offer by Age Concern, on the ground floor of Mary Stevens Centre, to accommodate the fundraising and lottery team.

Lease

A lease was agreed for the premises by the Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee last week.

The hospice intends to use the cen-

tre's ground floor dining room wing for their staff, whilst they temporarily relocate the day unit to offices in the hospice's lower car park.

The hospice plans to improve the dining room wing, getting contractors in to redecorate, create male and female toilets and a new tea point, while the main corridor is refurbished.

The hospice will also be required to make a contribution towards utility costs and repairs.

On the road to recovery after 27 heart attacks

RAY Woodhall has been called a walking miracle after he suffered 27 heart attacks in 24 hours – and survived.

The 54-year-old, from Wednesbury, was brought back from the dead after he collapsed while playing walking football in Kidderminster.

At one stage his family were called to his bedside and told he might not make it but the father-of-three pulled through and is now recovering.

Ray had wanted to drive home after collapsing but was instead taken to Worcestershire Royal Hospital by ambulance.

He said: "The doctors there told me they've never heard of anyone 'dying' so many times. I owe them everything."

Pain

He suffered his first cardiac arrest whilst going in for a tackle playing for Dudley-based Hartshill Strollers in a 'walking football' tournament for the over-50s.

"I felt a slight chest pain but just thought I was dehydrated and carried on playing but the next minute, I was on the ground."

Paramedics were called on the insistence of a male nurse who had been watching the match and was concerned about Ray's condition.

Ray said: "If it hadn't been for him I'd have tried to drive and probably wouldn't be here now. He kept saying I needed to be looked at."

At the hospital he had two more heart attacks before being taken to theatre where medics inserted two stents into an artery to stabilise him.

Ray said: "I kept falling asleep and waking again and apologising for dropping off. The consultant said I'd not been sleeping – I'd had another heart attack." Later that evening Ray



Ray Woodhall, aged 54, is now recovering after suffering 27 heart attacks

suffered a series of further arrests and his family – partner Jo Stokes, 50, sister Jayne, 49, and brother Robert, 51 – were called to his bedside and warned he might not survive. They were joined by his children Martin, 33, Gary, 30, and Samantha, 22.

Ray was brought back to theatre for a coronary angioplasty just before midnight but his family was warned he may be left with brain damage due to a lack of oxygen.

Further heart attacks followed – with the 27th and final one at 1pm the next day, almost exactly 24 hours after his first.

Ray, whose ordeal happened on December 17, is now back at home in Bagnall Wharf and making a steady recovery. His heart, which had fallen to 25 per cent capacity, is now up to 55 per cent functioning and improving every day.

He has returned to his desk job at drinks company A.G.Barr in Wednesbury where he is a team leader and is hoping soon to get the thumbs-up to play football again.

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Museum backdrop for Hepworth film



Cassie Compton as Barbara Hepworth in a scene from new biographical movie The Sculptress

THE Black Country Living Museum will provide the backdrop to a film on the life of an internationally-acclaimed British artist.

Pre-production is underway on The Sculptress, a new independent theatre movie inspired by the life of Barbara Hepworth. The arthouse film, set in London, Cornwall and Norfolk, traces Barbara's journey from traditional to landmark modern artist, fuelled by her love affair for her muse, the painter Ben Nicholson.

Rising star Cassie Compton is in the title role and seasoned theatre actor Tom Lawrence is to portray Nicholson.

Hepworth, who died in 1975, made headlines in 2015 after a battle to get her iconic Rock Form sculpture put back on display in Wolverhampton.

The nine-foot piece, worth up to £4 million, was locked away faster it was removed from its plinth at the Mander Centre in June 2014 ahead of the centre's multi-million pound revamp.

It has since been put on display at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Ticket for a day on the buses cut to £3

BUS fares are being cut in parts of the Black Country by more than a third, while children's fares have dropped by more than a half.

The biggest cut in adult fares – at 35 per cent – affects the Sandwell and Dudley low fare zone day ticket which falls from £4.60 to £3. The children's ticket has been cut by more than 50 per cent from £3.10 to £1.50.

The new prices have been brought in by National Express on journeys in Stourbridge, Merry Hill, Dudley, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Blackheath and Halesowen.

The zone also includes Bilston, Wolverhampton, and Darlston, Walsall. The M5 is the eastern border of the zone.

Reduction

An adult weekly travelcard for journeys inside the zone is now £11, down from £15.70 which is a reduction of 30 per cent. A child's weekly travelcard is now £5.50, down from £8.75.

Peter Coates, at National Express, said: "Our customers tell us that they want to travel around the Black Country for less. This new Sandwell and Dudley

By Marion Brennan

low fare zone means Black Country people can pay local to stay local.

"The new £3 day ticket is cheaper than an hour's parking at Russells Hall Hospital."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for economic development at Dudley Council, said: "The new cheaper day ticket is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to the borough to take in some of the many attractions we have to offer."

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure at Sandwell Council, added: "This is a great chance for people to visit Sandwell."

The new fares, which were introduced this month, do not include Birmingham.

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No return for Dudley Eye after wrangle over the cost

A GIANT ferris wheel, dubbed the Dudley Eye, will not be returning to the town centre this Easter, despite being a major success last year.

The Dudley Eye will not be coming back to the town this spring because traders and the ride operators have failed to reach an agreement. The arrival of the wheel gained national interest and attracted more than 13,500 people to the town centre. But Dudley traders, who organised the arrival of the attraction last March, said it was unlikely to come back this year after a price could not be agreed.

Children's hospital is outstanding

BIRMINGHAM Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has been rated 'outstanding'.

England's chief inspector of hospitals issued the rating after an inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The hospital is a specialist paediatric centre, offering care to more than 270,600 young patients from across the country each year.

CQC's chief inspector of hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, said: "I am extremely pleased to announce that Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is the first specialist children's hospital to be rated outstanding. Hospitals can be stressful places at the best of times, especially for children, young people and their parents or carers, so it is very pleasing to see a trust working so effectively to provide the best care."

"We were struck immediately by the culture of support and team work and how effective and well-respected the leadership was."

Dudley Council's cabinet member for tourism, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "It was a success last year but, by my understanding, it was to come round every other year. It could be that it returns next year."

Len Lenihan, managing director of Dudley Market Traders' Association, said: "We haven't been able to come to a financial conclusion but we are still hopeful of being able to agree a decision with the operators at a later date."

Convinced

Operators of the ride did not originally want to visit Dudley last year because they felt that the town would not offer them a significant footfall. But traders eventually convinced them and then around 13,500 people turned out to ride the 115ft attraction, beating the original target of 8,000 visitors.

Dudley traders paid around £10,000 for the ride but were hoping for a reduction this year. However, parties have been unable to agree on a price.

The ride earned the nickname the Dudley Eye. It received criticism from some on social media, mocking the panoramic views of the Black Country. TV presenter Piers Morgan joined in the debate, sparking controversy when he commented: "I cannot think of a grimmer panorama than Dudley."

Experts back Aldi's plan for eyesore store



An Aldi supermarket is proposed for the former DIY store at Kingswinford and has won officers' backing

A FORMER DIY store in Kingswinford is a step closer to becoming a supermarket after the plans were backed by planning officers.

The Focus DIY store, in Dudley Road, became an eyesore after standing empty for years. Residents called for action over the boarded-up and run-down property, which has also been occupied by travellers.

Aldi wants to convert the building into its latest Black Country supermarket, as the popular budget chain continues its expansion in the region.

The proposals would see the Focus store converted and the car park upgraded to provide more than 100 spaces.

Aldi aims to create 40 jobs at the new store on the site of a former DIY and garden centre. The site off Dudley Road, Kingswinford, has stood derelict for three years.

The Aldi supermarket would cover 1,350 square metres. It is expected to create both full-time and part-time jobs. The design and access statement submitted as part of the plans says

that vehicle access to the site will remain the same.

The existing main shop entrance will be blocked off and a new lobby created with a path from Dudley Road relocated.

The prospect of a new store proved popular at a consultation event held in St Mary's Church Centre in Kingswinford last year.

Planning officers are telling Tuesday's planning committee meeting that the development would improve the area and recommend approval.

Customs in booze raids on shops

A THREE-DAY blitz by customs officers has uncovered more than 10,000 litres of illicit booze in shops across the Midlands - including Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

The haul of mainly beer and wine was seized from shops in a series of raids.

It saw more than 50 officers from HM Revenue and Customs team up with trading standards officers in each area, targeting 24 shops.

The duty and VAT evaded by the illegal trade is estimated at £20,000. A van used to transport some of the alcohol was also seized.

Deborah Woodcock, assistant director at HM Revenue and Customs, said: "This is theft from the taxpayer and undermines legitimate traders."

Some 10,638 litres of alcohol, all believed to be illicit, was seized. This included 13 litres of spirits, 1,580 litres of wine and 18,100 cans of beer.

Of the 24 premises visited, illegal drink was found at 18.

The raids were part of HMRC's ongoing alcohol taskforce campaign, launched in 2011.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for trading standards at Dudley Council said: "Through joint operations with partners and our own investigations we are working hard to stop the sale of illegal alcohol across our borough."

Comedy night at rugby club to help hospice

COMPTON Hospice's Great Charity Night, featuring comedy acts, takes place on Friday, March 17, at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, on Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

Lee Evans tribute act Ian Jones will be performing as well as Craig Davies and his Comedy Magic show.

Tickets cost £7.50, from www.compton-hospice.org.uk/fundraising/ or call 01902 774500.

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More awareness of exploitation

YOUNG people and commuters will be encouraged to get to know the signs of grooming and child sexual exploitation (CSE) during a special week of action.

Advisers will be out and about in transport hubs this week raising awareness of the crime and the signs people need to be aware of.

The team will be at Halesowen bus station today (Thursday) from 10am to 3pm.

The week of action is the latest from the 'see me, hear me' campaign. Dudley's scheme will join forces with Warwickshire's Something's Not Right and Staffordshire's Know About CSE campaigns.

Fully endorsed and supported by British Transport Police, there will also be posters in bus and train stations, Metro tram stops and on buses travelling around the region.

Childline has counsellors available at www.childline.org.uk or find more information at the www.seeme-hearme.org.uk website.

Youngsters find a recipe for success



Chloe Beswick, aged 14, of Dudley, at work in the kitchen

TWO aspiring young chefs will represent the region in the next stage of a cookery competition.

Isabelle Smith, 12, and Joseph Little, 17, were crowned joint winners of the Rotary District Young Chef final at Shrewsbury College and will go forward to compete in the regional finals next month in Rugby.

Each of the 10 competitors in the regional final had to plan and prepare, cook and serve a healthy two-course meal costing no more than £10 in total.

The competitors, aged 12 to 17, came from across the Midlands, including Chloe Beswick, aged 14, from Dudley.

Joseph, of New College Telford, said he was delighted to progress in the competition. Isabelle, from Leek, said she had been helping her mother and grandmother in the kitchen since she was two.

Judges included Andrew Birch, head chef at Fishmore Hall Hotel, Ludlow, Wendy Barnard, of Brewood & District Inner Wheel, and Tony Robinson, of Ludlow Rotary Club. Rotarian John Sayer, district governor, congratulated the competitors.

Inspectors praise mental health trust

THE trust which provides mental health services across the Black Country has been praised after a Care Quality Commission inspection saw it go from 'requires improvement' to 'good'.

The CQC inspected services at the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, which provides inpatient and community mental health services, in October.

Now the trust has been rated as 'good overall' by the health watchdog after being given the rating for safety, effectiveness, responsiveness and leadership. It was previously inspected in November 2015 when it was rated as requires improvement.

The CQC's Dr Paul Lelliott said: "We were impressed by the trust's response to our previous inspection and found a number of improvements had taken place. This is why we are now able to change its rating from requires improvement to good."

Black Country tycoon secures £2m for online pound shop

THE Black Country retail tycoon behind the Poundland chain is to take his latest venture to the next level after securing a £2 million cash injection.

Steve Smith's online discount retailer Poundshop.com, based in Dudley, is set to expand operations after receiving funding from investment group Foresight.

Willenhall-born Mr Smith founded Poundland with his father Keith in the early 1990s, before selling the business for £50m in 2000.

The multi-millionaire, who lives in

Shropshire, said the cash boost would enable Poundshop.com to expand.

It comes after Poundland, which was sold last year to South African retailer Steinhoff International in a £597 million deal, announced it was stopping the sale of goods online.

Mr Smith said: "When I founded Poundland 26 years ago, everyone said it will never work, but belief and determination created the multi-billion pound retail industry we know today.

"Retail has changed enormously with the introduction of e-commerce, each year more and more people are shopping online. My enthusiasm for shopper value has not changed and I

am looking forward to taking single price shopping to the next level."

Mr Smith runs the firm alongside his 21-year-old son, Ashley. Mr Smith started out working on Bilston market with his family, and after setting up his first discount shop in West Bromwich, went on to open the first Poundland store in December 1990. By the time Mr Smith sold the business it employed more than 5,500 workers. It now employs 18,000 people, has almost 900 stores and posted revenue of £1.3 billion last year.

Poundshop.com was launched in February 2014 in partnership with Poundworld.



Millionaire Steve Smith

Time to design zoo-venir mug

TO celebrate its 80th anniversary year, Dudley Zoo is asking for its arty young visitors to create a unique 'zoo-venir'.

The popular attraction is asking youngsters aged 15 and under to get creative and design a colourful zoo-themed mug to mark their celebratory year. The winning entry will be made into a limited edition mug, which will then be sold in the Safari Shop.

Retail manager, Isobel Blackwell said: "This is a unique opportunity to design a piece of Dudley Zoo merchandise in our anniversary year and form part of our zoo history. We're encouraging children to get creative and show 80 years of Dudley Zoo in their design.

Application forms can be downloaded at www.dudleyzoo.org.uk/create-unique-zoo-venir or collected from the zoo entrance. Closing date is March 31.

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Norman Powell, seen at the RAF Museum, Cosford, by a Vickers Valiant bomber of 49 Squadron



Norman gets up close to the Valiant, with the squadron badge



Britain's first hydrogen bomb explodes on Christmas Island

Norman turned down chance to be part of history as bomb is dropped

SUN, sea, sand – apart from the small matter of a nuclear explosion or two, it was a free holiday of a lifetime.

But 60 years ago this month Norman Powell, then of Oldbury, turned down the invitation to take a trip to an exotic and remote island, and so missed the chance to witness history – the detonation of Britain's first hydrogen bomb.

He preferred not to go as he was courting and, as he went on to marry that young lady, it was a decision which changed the course of his life.

Standing at the RAF Museum at Cosford in the shadow of the very Vickers Valiant bomber which had a significant part in his tale, Norman, aged 79 reflects on his fateful choice. I was living then at Thompson Road at Langley in Oldbury, and served 18 months of my National Service in 49 Squadron at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire.

"At that time 49 Squadron had been as-

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

signed to the task of testing the nuclear hydrogen bomb over the middle of the Pacific Ocean in the spring of 1957.

"The operation was, of course, very hush-hush and us lower ranks were kept completely in the dark about the details of the operation.

Courting

"In the February of that year a number of us young National Servicemen were asked if we would like to be flown to Christmas Island to witness the detonation of the bomb.

"We were informed that we would not have anything to do out there but lounge around in the sun, sea and sand.

"I declined to volunteer because I was courting a local village girl at that time – she's now my wife of 58 years – and I must say I am glad I didn't because numerous

witnesses consequently suffered illnesses related to radiation in their later years."

"The nuclear bomb was dropped from a Vickers Valiant piloted by Wing Commander Kenneth Hubbard who was our commanding officer at RAF Wittering at that time." It is this same Valiant which is displayed in the National Cold War Exhibition at the museum with the names of the crew and 49 Squadron's badge on the side of the fuselage.

Norman, now living in Bucknell, Shropshire had worked in the workshop at the base, and not on the aircraft, but was able to observe the V-bombers' comings and goings as they went on rolling patrols to be on constant readiness with Britain's nuclear deterrent.

Britain's first hydrogen bomb was dropped by the Valiant south of Christmas Island in May 1957 and there followed a series of other atomic tests. Its flying career ended in December 1964 when all Valiants were grounded because of structural problems. It came to Cosford in 2005.



Norman, front right, with some of his National Service colleagues from 60 years ago

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Rush-hour delays as M5 central barrier is smashed

RUBBLE was left strewn across the M5 after a lorry smashed into the central barrier.

The crash, between junctions two for Oldbury and three for Halesowen, led to major delays during last Wednesday's evening rush-hour.

Lanes either side of the central barrier remained closed off into the following morning as debris was cleared and repairs made to the barrier. Large chunks of concrete came loose from the barrier dividing the two carriageways on the major route through the Black Country.

A light blue Scania truck smashed into the central wall, causing major damage to its front end. An Audi car was also caught up in the incident. Police and ambulance crews were called as traffic backed up at around 5.15pm.

One man was described as 'walk-

ing wounded' and was checked over by medics and taken to Sandwell Hospital with minor injuries.

The incident came just two hours after two drivers were hurt in a crash caused by a car going the wrong way down a slip road at Spaghetti Junction in Birmingham at 3.30pm. An 80-year-old man was said to have been driving the wrong way.

In another incident a teenage cyclist was taken to hospital after being hit by a car in Robert Wynd, Woodcress, near Coseley at 7.40am on Friday.

The Midlands Air Ambulance was called to the scene and landed on grassland nearby. Paramedics treated the male cyclist, aged 17, for head injuries sustained in the accident. He was taken by ambulance to New Cross Hospital.



The central reservation that was damaged by a lorry on the M5 between Oldbury and Halesowen

Jobless benefit claims on rise across borough

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits rose by 95 in the Dudley borough in January.

It follows a rise in the number of people unemployed in the West Midlands in the three months to December of 17,000 to 168,000.

Nationally a record number of people with more than 31.8 million adults in a job – 300,000 more than a year ago.

Wolverhampton saw the biggest rise in claimants of 135 to 6,565 (4.1 per cent of the working population) with Dudley up to 5,690 (3.5 per cent). Walsall had a rise of just 10 to 4,830 (2.9 per cent) whilst Sandwell bucked the trend in the Black Country with the fall of 10 to 7,065 (3.5 per cent).

Dudley Council finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "Any increase in the number of people unemployed is cause for concern. A rise of three per cent is alarming and indicates a permanent trend."

David Jenkins, of JobCentre Plus, said the roll out of Universal Credit added to the rise in claimants.

World Cup heroes at dinner to honour Jeff

ENGLAND'S World Cup heroes will come out to honour Albion legend Jeff Astle at a special event to mark what would have been his 75th birthday.

Sir Geoff Hurst and Gordon Banks have been lined up to appear at gala dinner at Hotel Football in Manchester in May.

Just 75 tickets will be made available for the intimate show paying tribute to the Baggies icon. Fans who get tickets will have the chance to get their hands of the Jules Rimet trophy – just as Bobby Moore and co did all those years ago.

The FA Cup, which Astle famously held aloft in arguably his finest hour in a Baggies shirt, will also make an appearance.

Money raised will go towards the Jeff Astle Foundation to help his family continue their fight for the football authorities to sanction more research into links between heading footballs and brain conditions such as dementia.

Tickets

Former West Brom and England striker Astle died in 2002, aged 59, suffering from early on-set dementia, which a coroner found was caused by heading heavy footballs.

Tickets for the dinner, on Saturday, May 13, are expected to sell out. They will cost £75 each and anyone booking a table of 12 will get one of the tickets for free.

Hat-trick hero of 1966 Sir Geoff Hurst and ex-goalkeeper Gordon Banks will recount tales from their days playing alongside Astle for England. It is also hoped another World Cup winner, the former Liverpool striker Roger Hunt, will attend.

A series of prizes will also



Jeff Astle in his glory days

be given out through a raffle.

While having some of the greatest names to have ever played the game at the event is a huge feat, the Astle family said those who aren't able to attend would embody their fight for justice. Several of the surviving 1966 World Cup team are now struggling with illness, they said.

Astle's daughter Dawn said: "Dad would have been 75 and we wanted to do something to celebrate his life. The FA has kindly allowed us to have the FA Cup and we are thrilled Sir Geoff Hurst and Gordon Banks have agreed to come. It shows the esteem in which he is held."

For tickets, email dawnastle9@gmail.com

Monarch launch new holiday air routes

BUDGET airline Monarch has announced four new routes to its network for summer 2017 from Birmingham International Airport.

Flights to Split in Croatia, Valencia in Spain, Naples in Italy and the Greek island of Rhodes are available to book now, starting at £39 one way. Monarch will be the only airline flying to Split and Valencia from Birmingham Airport.

The flights will take place twice weekly to Split on the Dalmatian coast, Valencia on the Costa Blanca, Naples near the historic site of Pompeii, and once a week to Rhodes, the largest of Greece's Dodecanese islands.

In April Monarch will be launching flights the Swedish capital Stockholm, a new destination from Birmingham.



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AS usual we sold a number of engagement rings prior to this year's Valentine's Day but it was interesting to note that not all people still think diamonds are a girl's best friend.

Apparently, it was the London jewellers De Beers who first marketed diamonds as the 'must-have' engagement stone in the 1930s and the idea plainly caught on.

Of course they are still enormously popular and a 'traditional' choice for this occasion – but they are being given a run for their money by other precious – and even semi-precious – stones.

The style and design of the ring is all-important for a ring that is to mark such a special occasion and the colour and set of the stones is very much an individual choice.



Sapphires, rubies and emeralds are all up there with the diamonds – but increasingly so are stones such as opals, topaz, amethyst, garnet, opal, pearl and even the more unusual morganite and moissanite!

And you can get more unusual 'lookalikes' of the standard precious stones, such as green amethyst and tsavorite (emerald) and blue garnet or tanzanite (sapphire).

Both tsavorite and tanzanite were made famous by Tiffany and Co after their discovery in Tanzania during the 1960s, both are very striking stones and look superb in any piece of jewellery.

Morganite is a very pretty pink to orange coloured stone from the same mineral family as emerald and aquamarine, which looks great set in rose gold, and moissanite is a rare silicon carbide that looks a little like a diamond (it is named after Dr Henri Moissan, who discovered it in France during the late 1800s).

The colour of the stones in engagement rings also (again, according to tradition!) should have a 'message' or meaning in terms of a couple's relationship.

White supposedly stands for truth, purity and positive energy, red is for happiness and stability, blue is for harmony and peace, green is for health and wealth and purple is for adventure and inspiration.

Once you have decided on a favoured setting and stone it's time to choose the ring – and this might be a challenge if it is being bought in secret as it is often difficult to guess the size of a partner's finger.

It's a good idea to 'borrow' a ring that fits and get it sized by whoever you are buying your ring from, that way you will at least be reasonably sure it will fit.

If there is any doubt it is better to err on the side of a larger ring as it will be less expensive to get it re-sized.

So if you did pop the question earlier this week take a look at the lovely vintage rings on offer – and don't feel obliged to be traditional.

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom on Tuesday April 4. Viewing will be during the week-end and on the Monday prior to the auction.

Let's celebrate real skills, not celebrity status



We live in the age of the celebrity

I'VE watched a couple of 'Celebrity' game shows this week. The definition of 'Celebrity' is 'one who is widely known and of great popular interest', but I am struggling to recognise the contestants.

The internet has created so many popular people not actually known by the masses, music stars, those in the fashion and beauty industry, chefs and bakers, scientists, railway enthusiasts, actors, architects, engineers and builders.

We have the ability to show the world what we can do with social media, YouTube films, Facebook marketing, Instagram promotions. Bloggers tell us what we should buy, cook and wear and we believe them. It makes us creative with our thoughts but limited with our vision. Television advertising is cheaper and more accessible. Somehow there is so much information that it becomes more difficult to find something.

I am an avid collector of books, I love the written word but it is becoming less and less popular, the data is not immediate, newspapers are no longer a source of information. We cannot filter what is the truth and what is a

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



façade and we are led into fraudulent situations easily. Sometimes it is just a pleasure to get lost in a good story in a book, touch and feel the garment we are buying and enjoy a film at the cinema.

The problem is that we all believe we no longer need the professionals, the people with qualifications and years of trade experience and consequently the traditional trades are in decline. We object to paying for a service that takes many years to learn, training to become a teacher, mechanic, butcher, baker, dressmaker, electrician, plumber and the many other crafts.

It is unfortunate that a 'name' also carries a heavy price tag and heavy bragging rights but not necessarily quality. We are sadly subject to a dramatic lack of proof of competence and skill.

I love the depth of new talent out there that can be accessed so easily but it is the celebrity adoration that makes us believe we can do anything without training and knowledge, helped and aided by the professionals receiving no acclaim for their services. We are also in need of finding the cheapest price regardless of where it comes from. Often costing more if it is not suitable or needs additional work.

Do believe in yourself if you have a talent, learn well, train well and make someone proud of you but beware of the celebrity prestige and definition of that accolade, these days the honour has limited timescale, 5 minutes of fame and then another face becomes the popular choice. We live in a fickle and frivolous world, one of vast choice and limited values. We all have a skill, to some it comes naturally, to some it is hard work but ultimately it could be your incredible future. Make it yours not a facsimile of a celebrity idea.

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Nearly two-thirds (63 per cent) of people who have made purchases they later regret do so because of sales, says the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute

High price to pay for snapping up bargains



The sales can be hard to resist

ARE you suffering from "buyers' regret"? You're not alone.

The January sales are over for another year – and while some people may be proudly showing off their new-found bargains, others could be counting the cost of "buyer's regret".

Shoppers typically over-spent £78 on items over the festive period, research from Santander suggests.

Walking to work, cancelling gym subscriptions and spending less on going out are just some of the ways people say they're cutting back.

A fifth (21 per cent) of those surveyed say they will even cut back on festive spending in 2017 as a result of the amount spent over the Christmas just gone.

For some, the temptation to grab a bargain can have much more serious consequences.

Research from the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute, a charity founded by consumer champion Martin Lewis, has highlighted people's difficult relationships with online sales.

It found nearly two-thirds (63 per cent) of people who have made purchases they later regret do so because of sales. Nearly one in 10 (9 per cent) say they always, or often, regret purchases they make online.

By Lisa Salmon

The speed and convenience of online shopping with a simple click of the "buy" button can be hard to resist.

Polly Mackenzie, director of the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute, says increased spending can also be a symptom of a number of mental health problems.

This type of spending isn't driven by people being "greedy", she says, but by their emotions – such as boredom, depression or loneliness.

The Institute found around half (48 per cent) of people living with mental health problems say they make purchases they regret when they're alone. Just over half (52 per cent) do so when they are feeling low and nearly a third (31 per cent) do so while shopping at night.

Many people also struggle to return goods they regret buying, with three-quarters (75 per cent) of people saying they didn't return the last online purchase they regretted.

While returning items may be one way to get your finances back on track, more than a quarter (28 per cent) of those with mental health problems didn't return their last regretted online purchase because they felt too ashamed.

The Money and Mental Health Policy Institute has launched a free, experimental

tool to help people control their spending.

The "shopper stopper" allows shoppers to set the opening hours of online stores, enabling them to block access at times they find purchases particularly hard to resist, such as the middle of the night.

Lewis says: "Many people shop to make themselves feel better in periods of depression, to give things to others or feel needed, or to fill the time when they're bored or lonely."

"But the boost it gives is transitory, while the financial pain it can cause lingers on and on."

More details about the shopper stopper tool can be found at www.shopperstopper.co.uk

And if the goods you've bought in the sales turn out to be faulty, consumer group Which? has an online tool to help at www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/what-to-do-if-i-have-a-faulty-product

The tool can be used to automatically generate a letter to send to the retailer requesting a refund, replacement or repair, where appropriate. Vickie Sheriff, director of campaigns and communications at Which? says: "If you've bought or been given a dud, it's vital that you know your rights and act fast if something is not right."

You have the right to return your item and get a refund within 30 days of purchase.

Splashing out at water disco

CHILDREN can enjoy fun and games at the Crystal Leisure Centre this week during half-term.

The Dudley Council facility in Bell Street, Stourbridge, will host a jam-packed week of activities.

The swimming pool, complete with slides, waves, bubble seat and rapids, will be open every day. There will also be a bondi-beat water disco tomorrow (Friday), from 3.30pm to 6pm.

Junior membership which includes swimming, gym access, squash and badminton courts and fitness classes is available for £15 per month or £150 per year. Pre-booking at reception is recommended, call (01384) 812800.

Duncan's uncle Sid was a hero

TO the thousands of adoring Manchester United fans who watched him from the terraces, Duncan Edwards was their hero.

But the Dudley-born football icon, who died from injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster in 1958, was not the only hero from the family, and not the only one to die tragically.

It has been 100 years since the death of Duncan's uncle Sidney Edwards, who was killed on the battlefield during the First World War.

While Duncan's journey from the playing fields of Dudley to the Busby Babes of Manchester United is known the world over, his uncle's story remained hidden until recently. It was only when Roger Brownhill, Duncan's second cousin, researched his family history that he found out about Sidney's life and premature death.

Born in 1893, Sidney, who also hailed from Dudley, was only in his 20s when he died fighting in Mesopotamia, which is today mostly Iraq. Little is known about Sidney's life, but he left behind a wife Annie and a young son, also called Sidney, when he went to fight. He served as a private with the 9th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment.

His regiment trained on Salisbury Plain before heading for Gallipoli, in modern-day Turkey, where it is believed Sidney saw action. In January 1916 the regiment moved to Egypt and soon after to Mesopotamia.

Sidney would never return home to Dudley. He died on January 25, 1917, at the Battle of Kut-al-Amara and is buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. The family do not have a photo of Sidney.



Duncan Edwards

Major funding blow for region's 'super hospital'

SANDWELL'S new super hospital is set to lose out on £12 million of funding each year for emergency care – a major blow to the facility before it has even opened.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which will run the £350m Midland Metropolitan Hospital, said a 'scaling back of services' would now have to be considered.

The proposed shortfall is set to hit in 2018/19 – the financial year when the Midland Met is due to open its doors.

The Midland Met has been designed to specialise in emergency

care. The trust failed to meet A&E waiting times for the last year at its Sandwell General and City Hospital sites.

Trust chief executive Toby Lewis said: "Commissioner proposals to reduce our income by £12m per year are a significant matter for resolution and we continue to work to find a way forward."

"The quality and safety implications of the commissioners' proposals are yet to be examined."

"The trust remains committed to making the Midland Met an effective emergency centre for local people."



NHS

Don't ignore the warning signs.

If you've been suffering from tummy troubles such as **diarrhoea, bloating, discomfort or anything else that just doesn't feel right for three weeks or more**, it could be a sign of cancer.

It's probably nothing serious, but finding cancer early makes it more treatable, so **tell your doctor.**

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New night flights a perfect take off



Looking down on Wolves training ground



Jim Hughes and gyrocopters at Rotorsports

"THE possibilities are limitless – this is really going to take off and we are at the centre of it all."

A Wolverhampton-based aircraft manufacturer believes that its fleet of gyro planes are ready to be used for all manner of aviation activity over the next decade after finally securing permission to fly them at night.

Rotorsport UK is the leading gyroplane manufacturer in the UK with more than 140 aircraft in its fleet. Since 2005 Rotorsport has transformed the world of gyro-

Up, up, and away as reporter JORDAN HARRIS gets a bird's eye view from a gyro plane

roplanes into the fastest growing light aviation sector from its base at Halfpenny Green Airport.

The company uses its fleet of Auto-Gyro models mainly for business and commercial flights at present but now believes that with the ability to take to the skies at night, it can offer help to the emergency services, weather and traffic reports and the casual flyer looking for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

After carrying out the first ever

night time flight of a gyro plane in the UK using the Cavalon Pro Model last November, the business is now looking to the future with optimism.

Jim Hughes, who has made the transition from gyro plane instructor to business and operations manager with Rotorsport, said: "Being able to fly at night has opened all sorts of doors for us now."

"We really believe that the Auto-Gyro is the future of aviation, the Cavalon Pro can do everything a regular helicopter can at around 10 per cent of the cost."

First

"Getting permission to fly at night was tricky because there were no set tests for us to pass due to how little these planes are used over here."

"We had to make up our own course and get that signed off because this was such an unprecedented thing to want to do."

"This is the first time in European history that such an aircraft has been awarded this approval."

"It's been a very long and complicated process but it's certainly a major step forwards in the gyro world."

He added that despite their size, there is never a moment when you feel unsafe as you move over the city 500ft above the air. Mr Hughes said: "They are actually safer than a helicopter too. People have a concern about small aircraft but this



Seated and Jordan is ready for the off



Reporter Jordan Harris experiences a flight in a Gyrocopter

moves with the wind, it isn't fighting against it."

"Even an emergency landing situation is very calm, we just gently hover back down towards the ground."

He added: "It is something I set as a challenge for myself and within seven years I have gone from a novice to someone who can teach others."

"It is a great feeling and some-

thing that so many people would enjoy. Outside of that, we see huge potential for our planes to become a part of the business world and believe that the police could benefit."

"They would save money and get the job done if they are over-seeing a chase or a particular incident, but we could also help with search and rescue missions," Mr Hughes added

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Percy finally added to roll of school's war dead

A FORGOTTEN hero of the First World War will take his rightful place on a memorial at his old school.

Former Dudley Grammar pupil Alwyne Percy Mould died in the Palestine Campaign in the summer of 1918.

But his name does not appear on the school's monument to former students who died in the conflict.

Dudley Museum officer Adrian Durkin said: "It's a mystery as to why he has been missed off and I can only guess it was because he left the area to work in Coventry some years before the outbreak of the war."

"Whatever the reason, it is only right we set the record straight by celebrating someone who died for his country."

War medals, photographs and school reports were only recently passed to the soldier's closest living relative, 82-year-old Ron Mould, of Pedmore, by a distant relative.

It formed part of a Great War centenary exhibition at Dudley Museum until the building was closed by the council last autumn.

The memorabilia was originally collected by Percy's sister, Ivy, who lived in Wolverhampton, before moving to Surrey.

Saddler

According to research carried out by Mr Mould, Percy as he was known in the family was born in 1886 in Horsley Heath, Tipton, the son of a saddler. He attended Dudley Grammar School, where end-of-term reports showed he was a bright pupil. On leaving, he became a railway clerk at Coventry.

Despite no Scottish ancestry, Percy became a member of the 2nd/14th Battalion of the London Scottish Regiment, largely made up of railwaymen.



He served with the London Scots



Percy Mould's war medals



Ron Mould with the plaque honouring his great-uncle, soldier Percy Mould

He fought in the Palestine Campaign where the Allies battled to make gains against the Turks of the Ottoman Empire.

In March 1918, with Jericho taken, the regiment was tasked, along with New Zealanders from the Anzac Mounted Division, to cross the River Jordan, capture Amman and destroy the Hejaz railway. Success would also

assist the Arab Revolt, famously led by British officer TE Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia. But unseasonal heavy rain turned the ground into a quagmire and the attack failed.

The following day, May 1, the Turks counter-attacked and Percy, aged 32, was killed by machine gun fire, one of 1,600 Allied casualties during the four-day battle.

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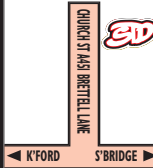
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Bergenias provide interest and colour

BEST OF THE BUNCH – Bergenia

ALSO known as elephant's ears because of its broad, leathery, rounded leaves, this late winter perennial provides both architecture and colour to the winter scene.

Growing up to 60cm tall, some form in clumps, others have a more open habit, and the flowers come in shades ranging from pale pink to ruby red and deep purple. The leaves, too, provide interest as the cooler weather sets in, turning shades of crimson, bronze and maroon.

Bergenias grow happily in sun or shade in moist soil and make good partners for bulbs including snowdrops, crocuses and wood anemones.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Peas

YOU can make a head start now if your soil is cold and wet by sowing early peas in some guttering in the greenhouse.



Just buy a strip of standard house rain guttering, cut it into manageable lengths and place it on your greenhouse staging.

Half fill the guttering with potting compost. Sow peas about 3-5cm apart, covering them with more compost, water with a watering can fitted with a rose and place on the greenhouse staging.

Once the seedlings have grown to around 10cm, they will be ready to plant outside in a sunny spot in soil with plenty of added organic matter.

Use a spare piece of guttering to dig a trench the same shape and depth and then slide the seedlings, compost and all, out of their guttering and into the space created.

You may then need to firm the ground around them and water them in. Protect them from pigeons by covering them with netting supported by stakes.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

- Top dress pot plants which are not to be repotted with fresh compost.
- Soil on the vegetable plot which has been enriched in autumn can now be treated by applying lime.
- Buy celery seed for sowing under glass in March or early April.
- Plan your summer bedding scheme so that seed orders can be made as soon as possible.
- Clear up debris which might be hiding slugs and snails.
- Continue to firm in plants that have been lifted by frost or windrock.
- If heavy frosts or cold winds are predicted, provide added protection to half hardy and slightly tender perennials using cloches, netting, horticultural fleece, dead bracken, straw and even old woollens. You can remove them from the plants once the danger of frost has passed.
- Start to harden off autumn-sown cauliflower as conditions allow to be ready for planting out in March.
- Plant pump, healthy lily bulbs outside or in pots to provide flowers this summer
- Clean and sharpen blades of pruners and tools.



Enjoy Afternoon Tea with views of the Italian Gardens at Weston Park

Perfect setting to enjoy special Mother's Day treat

LOOKING for the ideal garden-inspired treat for Mother's Day?

Delicate savouries, dainty sweet treats and the elegant country house setting are all on the menu for those celebrating the occasion at Weston Park on Sunday, March 26.

Guests are invited to enjoy a special afternoon tea served in the Victorian Orangery on the estate, near Newport.

Vintage tea stands, feminine china, white linen, fresh flowers and open views across the Italian Gardens and the rolling countryside of Shropshire and Staffordshire beyond combine to create a quintessentially English experience.

Weston Park's Head Chef Guy Day, who enjoys nothing more than creating the fabulous flavours and visual delights of an afternoon tea, said: "It takes very particular skills and creativity to create a truly first class afternoon tea, with a lot of work going into the preparation. And it's not just the pastries that needs to be perfect but the presentation."

The exclusive Mother's Day menu includes finger sandwiches filled with a selection of fillings such as smoked salmon and chive alongside

English cucumber and herbed cream cheese. A delicious caramelised onion and gruyere tart accompanies the savouries whilst the sweet treats include jasmine tea custard tarts, lemon drizzle, honey madeleines and scones served with clotted cream and strawberry jam.

Everything is home-made by Guy and his team of chefs and is served with specialty teas or freshly brewed coffee, or for extra sparkle a glass of prosecco or a gin fizz.

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at Weston Park is £27.50 per person or £33.50 with a Gin Fizz or glass of Prosecco.

This also includes access to Weston Park's gardens and grounds, which will just be starting to flower for spring, and the Granary Art Gallery and Granary Deli will also be open for guests to enjoy.

To make a booking or for further details call Emily Thompson on 01952 852106 or email emily@weston-park.com

For more details on Weston Park, the historic 17th century house and country estate set in 1,000 acres of Capability Brown parkland, visit www.weston-park.com

Get creative and snip up a homegrown bouquet

ROSS UNDERWOOD



Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

IF the old cliché is to be believed then this week petrol stations and supermarkets everywhere will have sold out of flowers and chocolates and the purchasers will be harassed and forgetful hen-pecked husbands.

Roses are always popular, especially red but in the bleak and dreary days of February this seems somewhat unnatural.

The occasion itself traces its origins as far back as Roman times when the festival of Lupercalia which celebrated the coming of springtime and more broadly the themes of fertility and renewal.

The pagan festival was Christianised in the late fifth century when it became the feast day of St Valentine, a Christian martyr.

The association of St Valentine's Day with the usual dozen red roses these days represents more a triumph of marketing over common sense.

Yet there is, as so often, another side to the story.

Think about it for the moment when you see a bunch of fresh looking flowers at the florist or supermarket.

Abundant

Here we are shivering and at the same time in places as far flung as the Middle East, Africa and South America, places where there is plentiful good light, abundant water, cheap land and labour.

Bunches of stems are being harvested, packaged and shipped across the globe. Our romantic gifts sit in the centre of a huge nexus of world trade employing hundreds or thousands of people.

Floristry has always appealed to me though I am hopeless.

It is a way of training the eye to see past the simple and gaudy attractions of colour only and instead to look for form and texture as well.

Many great gardeners (though I don't count myself amongst them) have been florists, most notable being the venerable Beth Chatto who began her garden on the family farm.

I make a point of visiting as often as possible either in person or vicariously through her brilliant writings.

Her garden always provides inspiration especially as it manages to do so without the intensiveness of either Sissinghurst or Dixter.

If you wish to bring your loved one a token of your esteem why not step out into your own garden or surrounding area armed with your secateurs and perhaps a trowel. Although they are flowering now you could ease up a few snowdrops to bring indoors in a nice pot perhaps with a little sphagnum moss to hide the soil.



Bring in some blooms from your own garden, like this clump of snowdrops which are just starting to flower



Make use of spent flower heads from shrubs such as hydrangea

Hellebores are also in flower though making them a gift is a bit more fiddly as it involves putting the cut stems in boiling water to stop them flopping.

Ivy is displaying its wonderful purple black berries on the older woody parts of the plant and these can be cut.

The shiny evergreen leaves will reflect the light and look good with a few hazel or alder twigs hung about with catkins.

Other winter evergreens are equally as valuable for adding texture.

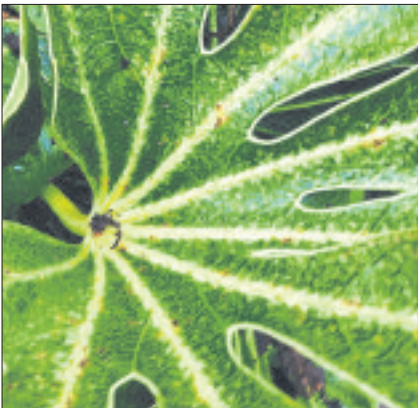
The large palm shaped leaves of Fatsia japonica add a wonderful touch of the ex-

otic and the shiny leaves of Bergenias which may be displaying rich red or bronze tints can be just as striking and add a textural depth to an arrangement.

Spent flower heads from shrubs such as hydrangea though appearing delicate can also be used to great affect while they last.

For something a little more colourful why not seek out a few stems of an early camellia.

It would be wrong to hold one bunch of flowers and superior in some way to another whether it comes from florist, supermarket, garden or hedgerow it is the thought that



The large, exotic palm shaped leaves of Fatsia japonica

counts as Pablo Neruda reminds us true love is much more mysterious. He writes:

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.

I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride; so I love you because I know no other way

than this: where I does not exist, nor you,

so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,

so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

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HOME FOCUS

Step into spring with a new carpet and banish the blues

BANISH those winter blues and step into spring with a new carpet. That's the advice from Cormar Carpets, one of the UK's leading manufacturers.

They recommend we turn our back on winter by simply swapping tired, old carpets with one in a fresh-feeling hue or texture.

"At this time of year, many homeowners want to give their home a makeover either to create a new look or add extra interest if their home is going on the market," says David Cormack, marketing director at Cormar Carpets.

"As we head into warmer climes and lighter evenings, now's the time to add nuances of spring to interiors."

Openness

According to David, you can breathe fresh life into a room by creating a feeling of openness with transparent surfaces and mirrors to bounce light around your home; inject florals into furnishings and show off flowers and foliage for a hint of British springtime; and complement it all with soft white or cream paintwork.

For that all-important final finish, choose a warm neutral carpet to complete the transformation.

Experimenting with a textured carpet adds dimension to the room and using a wool-based carpet, such as Cormar's Malabar Two Fold collection will help keep early spring frosts at bay from the home.

Says David: "Not only is wool ultra-



Use a woo- based carpet such as Malabar Two Fold to keep out the cold

hardwearing but it is a great insulator. It has also been used for centuries and is well known for its performance capabilities.

"It is naturally flame retardant and has an inbuilt resistance to soiling and staining which keeps the carpet looking new and fresh for longer."

Once your new carpet is in place, follow Cormar's golden rules to keep it

in tip-top shape: Avoid particles of loose dirt and dust from working their way into the carpet pile where they will act abrasively on the fibres and discolour the carpet, by vacuuming a new carpet regularly - you should do this at least two or three times a week.

A large, strong doormat will help to reduce dirt from outside being spread around the house.

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Look after your roof and it will prevent sky-high costs

IT'S easy to overlook your home's roof, but it's important to keep it in good condition, especially at this time of year.

Roofs should ideally be inspected twice a year (or more), both from the outside (with binoculars) and inside the loft.

If you can see daylight in the loft, there may be something missing on the outside. Roof tiles or slates that have broken, slipped or been blown off are a common occurrence. If they're not replaced, rainwater will get into the loft and cause damage there, and then in the rooms below.

Problems

Other parts of the roof can cause leaks and damp, too, including the flashing, guttering and chimneys. You may be able to spot these problems yourself, but will usually need a roofer to put them right.

If the roof has to be retiled, do you replace the tiles like for like or go for something different, provided there are no planning restrictions? "Although handmade tiles look great, they can make the job more time consuming - you may need an experienced roofing team to manage the materials," says Simon Braithwaite, category manager at builders merchant Travis Perkins.

"Handmade tiles are also expensive. Expect to pay around £1,000 per 1,000 tiles - the average detached house requires 8,000 tiles. Another



Roofs should ideally be inspected twice a year - or more inside and out

consideration is the area - if you live in a rustic village, handmade tiles may be much more in keeping with your surroundings."

"Handcrafted tiles, which are tiles that have been dealt with by hand during part of the production process, usually cost much less than handmade ones," says Braithwaite. "If you have a smaller budget, machine-made clay or

concrete tiles are the most affordable options. Concrete tiles can degrade in appearance and structure over time, whereas clay lasts much longer and is more aesthetically pleasing." He continues: "Another consideration is the roof pitch - you can't use certain types of tile on certain roof pitches because they don't look good and could cause structural problems."

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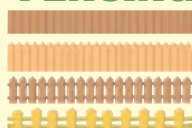
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A close encounter with wild animals at the zoo



Sail away... Sally-Anne Youll with Emily and Jamie



The Youll family relax 'Al fresco' alongside the funbus

Making memories on family's funbus

THERE'S a delicious moment when you go away on holiday when you feel all the strains of everyday life fall like a yolk released from your shoulders.

The magical second when I close my eyes, take a deep breath and shake off the madness of the other 50 weeks of the year.

And, after a few years of Channel hopping, I know when that wave of relief will hit – and it usually comes with the gentle roll of the boat as we make our now annual sojourn to France.

Now this is where I should hold up my hands and declare an interest. I cannot, in good conscience, even pretend to be a neutral when it comes to my French leave.

For the past decade we have been driving on to ferries in our trusty old motorhome to sample a couple of weeks of la belle vie in France.

The kids have grown up with the trusty old family friend known to us as 'the funbus' and it has seen thousands upon thousands of miles covered in search of happy holidays at home and abroad. And it has never yet failed us.

And when we roll on board our Brittany Ferries ship at Portsmouth, locked up and sat on deck in bright sunshine to set off for the French port of Caen, that is when I really relish holiday starts.

And yes, a boat can be slower but you can forget the hellish airport queues and book yourself a cabin and you can snooze away a good part of the journey to boot. I did....

Pick your holiday destination in France and you can be off the ferry and setting up camp within minutes.

However, for us, this year we were heading further down the French Atlantic coast in search of slightly warmer climes in the Charente-Maritime region which surrounds the ancient port city of La Rochelle.

It's an area well known to Brits, many

HOLIDAYS

By Russell Youll

drawn by the region's sunny warm summers without the soaring heat of some of the southernmost resorts on the Mediterranean.

After disembarking at Caen it was a long drive through some delightful countryside and despite the frequent tolls (or perhaps because of them) the French autoroutes were a dream to navigate.

Now the one great thing about the funbus is the ability to pull up and draw the curtains and bed down for the night pretty much anywhere you choose.

And in France a little 'wild camping' is a lot more frequent and accepted than it is on this side of the Channel.

We broke our journey with an overnight stop in a pretty market town of Marans and pulled next to a few other motorhomes in a back street next to a canal.

We awoke on a sunny Sunday morning to find a bric-a-brac market had set up nearby and armed with a few tasty croissants, we killed a couple of pleasant hours stocking up on the obligatory French sausages and olives before resuming our travels.

Soon afterwards, we were at our main destination for the next couple of weeks, the twin resorts of Le Palmyre/Les Mathes about an hour south of La Rochelle.

Here there are myriad campsites and mobile home parks to choose from, but we chose the Atlantique Parc site, in the main for its incredible pool complex.

In France, waterslides are pretty much obligatory at any self-respecting campsite and our kids, Emily and Jamie, aged 12 and 10 at the time, simply demand them.

But at Atlantique Parc, there is another huge aquatic draw – a huge man-made lagoon complete with a fine sand beach which surrounds it. It is simply fantastic. We lazed away many an afternoon here.

This trip may be the last to France in our trusty old funbus, but it will have done it proud and it will be a very fond au revoir.



The fantastic lagoon pool at Atlantique Parc proves popular with the children

Pooch can come too on relaxing lakeside trip

WHY 'wander lonely as a cloud' around the Lake District when you can take man's best friend along for the ride? The Pheasant Inn in Bassenthwaite offers dog-friendly accommodation, so our pooch Penny didn't have to stay behind.

A tranquil haven of undulating hills and calming waters, it is clear to see why the national park's spectacular landscape has been such a huge influence on some of England's best-known writers.

'Lakes poet' William Wordsworth was born just up the road from the Pheasant, in Cockermouth. This truly is a beautiful part of the country.

Originally a Lakeland staging post and coaching inn, The Pheasant is now a hotel and restaurant that combines good hospitality and charm with delicious food and a wondrous setting where the woods meet the water and the fells meet Bassenthwaite Lake.

After a friendly welcome we decided to head to our room.

To get there we had to walk Penny up a flight of stairs onto the hotel's main landing and through to the back of the building, so pets need to be confident inside and around strangers as we encountered several other guests and cleaners on our way.

Although, there are garden lodge rooms available which are more accessible than those in the main hotel. Once settled we ordered room service, which couldn't have come soon enough for two tired travellers.

Luckily, after about half-an-hour, we were sitting down to a smoked salmon starter and cold meats, which were both delicious and well presented.

After a good night's sleep in our huge bed we enjoyed a hearty breakfast – a full English with good quality meat and perfectly poached eggs and buttery scrambled egg with smoked salmon. Penny was welcomed by a friendly member of staff and settled down by my feet while we ate.

With full bellies we headed to Aira Force, where "well-behaved dogs", whatever that is, are "more than welcome".

Roughly a 20-minute drive away from the Pheasant, it is probably the most famous of the Lake District waterfalls, with the main force dropping 70ft from below the base of a stone footbridge.

Visitors will find sprawling trees, red squirrels, pretty picnic spots, and a pleasant café to warm up or cool down, depending on the weather and your fitness levels.

The walk to the top and around the falls is as hard as you want to make it, with various paths to choose from.

Next we headed to Keswick, which is now one of the main centres of outdoor activities in the UK and an extensive selection of adventure activity companies, guides and instructors for all abilities are based around here. There is also a dog around every corner – Penny didn't know where to look/sniff.

After a brisk day exploring, I can think of no better place to relax than the Pheasant.

We strolled into the bar, where the decor is deliciously old fashioned, with puppy knick-knacks, and gleaming brass pumps. Penny settled down nicely on the carpeted floor as oth

er visitors with dogs wandered in and out and staff welcomed new guests.

The inn has history stretching back centuries and is full of character.

Later we decided to take the chill off by sitting in front of one of the cosy log fires in a comfortable lounge tucked away by the entrance. Here we took a look at the menu for dinner.

For an excellent meal in refined surroundings, the Fell Restaurant is ideal.

The Bistro offers the same quality and a wide range of dishes in a less formal environment, while in the bar, guests can choose from a traditional menu.

The highlight of my boyfriend's meal was the pan-fried supreme of guinea fowl, pearl barley risotto, roasted root vegetables, carrot purée and game jus (£15.50), while my twice-baked local cheese soufflé with roast garlic and mushroom velouté and parmesan (£8.50) was to die for.

We just needed to head back out into the stunning countryside again to walk it all off.

With an abundance of local walks and Keswick – voted the most dog-friendly town in the country by the Kennel Club – just eight miles away, the Pheasant is an ideal location for a holiday or short break with a pet.

By Rachael Harrison



Teeing off with a touch of luxury at golf club resort



The resort offers many activities besides golf

OUR final glimpse of the Celtic Manor was looking over the luxurious green of the 18th hole of the Twenty Ten Course from the clubhouse.

The beautifully manicured course was the legacy of when Celtic Manor, just outside Newport in the Usk Valley, was home to the Ryder Cup in 2010 – this was also the first time the event was held in Wales. The weekend had been action-packed with plenty of fun and adventure and we couldn't have timed our visit any better – it was the weekend of the 2016 Ryder Cup.

Surrounded by the heavenly green courses we were more or less on our own little island at the resort.

We were staying at a suite at the five-star resort hotel which has 330 rooms.

Classy and luxurious, the suite had a separate living room, dining room and balcony overlooking the beautiful countryside. The Celtic Manor Resort caters for every type of golfer. It has three championship courses, The Twenty Ten, Roman Road and The Montgomerie, plus a state of the art Golf Academy and two luxury clubhouses.

For the less serious golfer there are the adventure golf courses – Kingdom of Legends, where we experienced some of the most famous holes in golf in miniature including St Andrews, Augusta and our very own Belfry and also Celtic Challenge, where you could even float on a raft to the next hole!

About 15 minutes from the resort, there is Caerleon Golf Club, more suited

to beginners like ourselves. Here you can try your hand at the nine-hole short golf course.

Yes, Celtic Manor is all about golf but there is so much more to explore. We climbed and leapt across a number of obstacles on the Low Ropes Adventure at Forest Jump. For the braver visitors there's the high ropes adventure, which has 29 testing elements. There weren't enough hours in the day for us to try the shooting activities – Laser Clays, Archery and Crossbow and Laser Combat.

The whole weekend was packed with fun. I had thought Celtic Manor was just about golf, but there is so much more to the adventure. Perhaps one day we will get to the Twenty Ten course!

By Lisa Bailey

fast the ticket

Riot predicted

Kaisers back after forest date
See Page 25



Sister Burke

See Page 25



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GLAM 45 – Seventies Glam Rock plus SWEET 45!
Tomorrow,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Quest Fest
Sun, £5 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Metal To The Masses Birmingham – ROUND 1 – HEAT 1
Wed, £3
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Stevie Nimmo Trio
Wed, £12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Wednesday 13
Wed,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The ELO Experience
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

CLUBBING

Seedy Sonics presents Gone West
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 753 1818

Break Stuff – A Night of Nu-Metal Nostalgia
Tomorrow, £4
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991

CLASSICAL

St. David's Day Concert
Tomorrow, £19
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Organ Proms 2017
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Young Musicians Showcase
Sun,
Bromsgrove Concerts, B61 8LG.
Call 01527 836147

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Barbara Dickson
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

One Night In Nashville
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue,
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Hannah Johnson & The Broken Hearts
Wed, £14.95
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Sun,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

POP

Mike and the Mechanics
Tomorrow,
Symphony Hall Birmingham, The
International Convention Centre,
B1 2EA.
and
Mon,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

THEATRE

Knoxville Highway
Tonight, £6
Forest Arts Centre, Walsall,
WS3 1AG.
Call 01922654555

A Judgement In Stone
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.

Cinderella
Tonight - tomorrow, £16
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Anton & Erin – Strictly
Tonight,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Circus of Horrors
Tonight,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Thriller Live
Tonight - tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

Cirque Berserk!
Tonight - Sun
Birmingham REP Theatre,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Royal Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty
Tue, £12.50 - £18
Light House, The Chubb
Buildings, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716 055
and
Tue, £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

017 Dance Show: Around the World
Tue - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Vampires Rock: The Ghost Train
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

An Evening of Dirty Dancing – The Ultimate Tribute Show
Thu,
Brierley Hill Civic Hall, DY5 3DH.
Call 01384 812730

COMEDY

Standup comedy – Mickey Sharma, Micky Bartlett, Mark Nelson
Tonight - tomorrow, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B15 1DA.
Call 08700 111 960

Sean Lock – Keep It Light
Tue, £25
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Round The Horne
Wed,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Henning Wehn
Thu, £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

MISC. EVENTS

An Evening with Harry Redknapp
Tue,
The Chameleon Restaurant &
Bar, Birmingham, B1 1BD.
Call 0121 643 2233

ARTS & CULTURE

Photographic Prize 2017
Today - Thu,
RBSA Gallery, Birmingham,
B3 1SA.
Call 0121 236 4353

David Cox and his Contemporaries
Today - Thu,
Worcester City Art Gallery,
WR1 1DT.
Call 01905 25371

Somewhere Never Travelled – Annette Pugh Solo Exhibition
Today - Thu,
Reuben Colley Fine Art,
Birmingham, B3 2BB.
Call 0121 236 0920

The Last One Standing: The Tale of Bersham Colliery
Today - Thu,
Wrexham Museums, LL14 4HT.
Call 01978 292000

Touched by Greatness: The Story of Welsh International Football
Today - Thu,
Wrexham Museums, LL14 4HT.
Call 01978 292000

Into the Woods
Today - Thu,
RBSA Gallery, Birmingham,
B3 1SA.
Call 0121 236 4353

Enquiring Minds
Today - Thu,
Worcester City Art Gallery,
WR1 1DT. Call 01905 25371

Spotlight Tour
Today, Sun, Free
Ikona Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 1 0121 248 0708

Fantastic Beasts
Today,
Shropshire Hills Discovery
Centre, Craven Arms, SY7 9RS.
Call 01588 676060

Animal Mania
Today, £1 - £4
Blakesley Hall Museum,
Birmingham, B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Stitch Social
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Uncovering Mysteries
Today,
The Commandery,
Sibbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU.
Call 01905 361821

Buried Treasures
Sun,
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Whyley Dance
Tue,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Areley Common,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973.

Title TBC
Wed,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Beginners Embroidery Course
Wed,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Ceramic Crafts
Today - Sun, £3- £4
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

FAMILY & KIDS

mac Explorers: Mini Museums
Today,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Fantastic February Fun
Today,
Worcestershire County Museum,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster
DY11 7XZ. Call 01299 250416

Fantastic Half-Term Fun
Today,
Worcestershire County Museum,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster
DY11 7XZ. Call 01299 250416

John's Garden Open Day
Wed, £5
Ashwood Nurseries, Kinver,
Kingswinford, DY6 0AE.
Call 01384 401996

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Ricky is ready to run riot at big arena show



Straight-talking Ricky Wilson with the rest of the Kaiser Chiefs, ready to make a brilliant noise at Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on Saturday

DON'T expect anything but honesty from one of rock'n'roll's most successful frontmen of the past 10 years.

Kaiser Chiefs' singer Ricky Wilson is the epitome of a straight-talking, no-nonsense Yorkshireman. If he were a cricketer, he'd be Geoffrey Boycott.

Take their upcoming tour, calling in at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Saturday. For

a band returning after a lay-off following their successful 2015 Education, Education, Education tour, you'd imagine maybe a few nerves.

"Well, with the shows, I've got this problem that I'm too ambitious," he said. "I'm always on to the next thing. To me, they're not big enough, I want them bigger. I want to do a bigger tour in the autumn."

The gigs come hot on the heels of their show-stealing 2016 headline slot at V, when they revealed to the other acts on the bill what

a real festival band is made of. Ricky had a blast.

"I thought it was brilliant. These days, there's not as many bands who can headline that sort of show. We've cornered the market."

The Leeds band's latest album, Stay Together, is unashamedly pop. Ricky, who became a household name thanks to his role as judge and chief charmer on the BBC run of The Voice UK, said: "Making an album is just about making 45 minutes of brilliant noise – think about it – that's all it is."



Soul sister's brand new act

ALEXANDRA Burke does seem to have cornered the market in playing divas in peril. After around two years in the role of Rachel Marron in The Bodyguard, she is now playing an equally iconic character on stage.

This time around though, it is a lead role that requires a lighter touch in the shape of Deloris Van Cartier, the sassy singer who witnesses a gangland murder and is placed out of harm's way in a convent. Thus begins Sister Act, which is on at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday until Saturday (March 4) as part of a UK tour.

The revival has been directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel Horwood and wowed audiences at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre last year.

Alexandra admits she took a little bit of persuasion to bring Deloris to life, particularly as it meant stepping into the shoes of Whoopi Goldberg, who played Deloris in the movie. She recalled: "I actually wasn't too sure about saying yes although it was a fantastic opportunity. I didn't know if I was made for the role. It was actually the soundtrack that made me say yes. The songs are just so beautiful and I thought it would be a privilege to sing them."

After winning The X Factor in 2008, her debut single Hallelujah was a massive hit. Concert tours, hit albums and West End success followed.

Alexandra is keen to create a new characterisation of Deloris and not just copy Whoopi Goldberg. She said: "I always want to put my own spin and my own interpretation on anything that I do because that's my way. In fact, I have deliberately not watched the whole movie."

Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.

Get rhythm sticks at the ready for 40th anniversary

IT'S time to get your rhythm sticks out, The Blockheads are bringing Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll to Bilston's Robin 2 tomorrow night (Friday). It's their 40th anniversary and they want to celebrate.

Formed in 1977 as the backing band for Ian Dury and his songwriting partner Chaz Jankel, they first hit the road with their iconic singer when debut album New Boots and Panties was released on Stiff Records.

Dury died in 2000 after several hits that blended musical hall patter with jazz-funk but The Blockheads carried on and are now fronted by Ian's friend and minder Derek 'The Draw' Hussey. Chaz Jankel, Norman Watt-Roy (who is also Wilko Johnson's bassist), John Turnbull and Mick Gallagher remain from the original band. Tickets are £18 (advance) and £20 (door), see therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

X marks the spot as TV show pop stars roll in

THE X Factor Live Tour 2017 will roll into the West Midlands for a concert tomorrow night (Friday) at Birmingham's Genting Arena, at the NEC.

Viewers favourites from last year's show, which culminated in victory for Matt Terry in the live ITV final on December 11, will be taking to the stage.

The line-up will also include runner-up Saara Aalto, the notorious Honey G, boy band 5 After Midnight, Emily Middlemas, girl band Four of Diamonds, Ryan Lawrie and Sam Lavery.

Attended by more than three million people so far, The X Factor Live Tour, featuring finalists from the popular TV singing talent show, has been one of the most successful annual arena tours in the UK for the last 12 years. See www.gentinarena.co.uk for details.

Marley musical already a hit before premiere

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre's new Bob Marley musical, One Love, is a hit even before it opens at the Centenary Square theatre next month.

Popular demand for tickets for the world premiere of the show about the life of the reggae legend is so great that its run has been extended by a week.

Written and directed by former Casualty and Holby City actor Kwame Kwei-Armah, One Love: The Bob Marley Musical will now run from March 10 to April 15.

Stuart Rogers, executive director at Birmingham Rep said: "It seems to have captured the public's attention with audiences booking from as far afield as Israel, Oslo, Madrid and Hamburg."

To book tickets visit the website birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236

Short Breaks & Holiday

from only £79!

SHOWTIME With inclusive admission to top shows & acts in 2017!

Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone

Fri 19 May	£139
What's included?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach travel with reserved seating One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel Free time to enjoy Leeds Visit to historic York Inclusive evening admission to Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone concert at the Leeds First Direct Arena.

2 DAY SHOWTIME BREAKS	
Sat 4 Mar	Sunny Afternoon & Historic York £119
Fri 17 Mar	The Magic of Motown & Liverpool £99
Sat 1 Apr	Bay City Rollers - Les McKeown - Live £99
Sat 15 Apr	Thriller Live & Historic York £99
Wed 26 Apr	Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons £139
Sat 6 May	Dirty Dancing & Historic York £129
Sat 13 May	The Commitments & Historic York £119
Sat 13 May	Ken Dodd & Liverpool Special £99
Sat 27 May	Adam Ant - Live in Concert £119
Sat 10 Jun	Jane McDonald Live & Chester £119
Sat 17 Jun	Towerfest Country Music Festival £119
Sat 24 Jun	Eytha Live & Liverpool Special £119
Sat 1 Jul	Fantastic Mr Fox & Eureka £99
Sat 26 Aug	Sister Act & Liverpool Special £99

NATIONAL SPORTS Sensational Sports Breaks....

2 DAY SPORT BREAKS

Thu 13 Apr	Belway Premier League Darts - Live! £99
Sat 15 Apr	Liverpool & Haydock Races - Easter Special £99
Sat 13 May	Liverpool & Haydock Races £99
Sat 13 May	Women's FA Cup Final - Wembley £99
Sat 20 May	Non-League Finals Day - Wembley Stadium £99
Sat 20 May	FA Vase & FA Trophy Finals - Wembley £99
Sat 20 May	British Touring Car Championship - Oulton Park £119
Sat 20 May	Non-League Finals Day-Wembley Stadium £99
Sat 27 May	Liverpool & Chester Races £99
Sat 1 Jul	Liverpool & Chester Races £99
Sat 5 Aug	Liverpool & Chester Races £99
Sat 5 Aug	England v South Africa - Old Trafford £129
Sat 12 Aug	Liverpool & Haydock Races £99
Sat 26 Aug	Ebor Stakes - York Racecourse £119

Truckfest Spectacular & Oxford

Sat 27 May	£99
What's included?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach travel with reserved seating throughout One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel All rooms with en-suite facilities Admission to Truckfest at the Newbury Show Ground Visit to Oxford

Explore Europe Explore the best of Europe....

Bavaria Inclusive Spectacular

Sun 19 March	£399
What's included?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach travel with reserved seating on your holiday coach Four nights dinner, bed & continental breakfast at the Hotel Am Pfahl Viechtach. Overnight stays on the outward and return journeys on a bed and continental breakfast basis. Welcome drink on arrival Free bar on four evenings from 6pm-10pm with a choice of local beers, house wines and soft drinks Includes visits to Regensburg and Bavari Forest National Park. Free time in Viechtach.

4/5/7/14 DAY EUROPEAN BREAKS	
Mon 6 Mar	4 Ostend Special Breakaway £139
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend Inclusive £239
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine & Moselle Inclusive £219
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend Superdeal £209
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal £189
Fri 10 Mar	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal £149
Fri 10 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad £279
Fri 10 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel £289
Fri 10 Mar	4 Ostend Inclusive Weekend £189
Mon 13 Mar	5 Amsterdam, Cologne & Valkenburg £219
Mon 13 Mar	5 Rhine & Moselle Inclusive £219
Mon 13 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal £189
Sun 19 Mar	14 Spring Sunshine on the Costa Brava Coast £599
Mon 20 Mar	5 Three Countries Inclusive Special £199

Special Events Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Sat 1 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House £89
Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special £119
Sat 15 Apr	Emmerdale The Tour £99
Sat 22 Apr	Skipiton Market & Harrogate Flower Show £99
Sat 6 May	York & Emmerdale Village Tour £99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live! £79
Sat 20 May	Emmerdale The Tour £99
Sat 17 Jun	Emmerdale The Tour £119
Sat 24 Jun	Victoria at Harewood House £89
Tue 11 Jul	The Great Yorkshire Show & Historic York £99
Sat 15 Jul	Emmerdale The Tour £119
Wed 2 Aug	Bakewell Country Show & Historic Chester £89
Sat 5 Aug	York & Emmerdale Village Tour £119
Sat 19 Aug	Emmerdale The Tour £119

Harlow Carr Flower Show

Sat 24 June	£99
What's included?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach travel with reserved seating One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel Visit to historic York Inclusive admission to enjoy the Harlow Carr Flower Show

Family Fun Great breaks for all the family!

Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice

Sat 15 April	£99	Sat 17 June	£99
Sat 20 May	£99	Sat 29 July	£99
Sat 26 August	£99		
What's included?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach travel with reserved seating throughout One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel Included admission to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park to visit the Polar Bears and numerous other animals Included admission to the stunning 'Deep' where visitors can enjoy a unique interactive experience. 		

2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS	
Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular £99
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular £119
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime £89
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime £89
Sat 24 Jun	Legoland Spectacular £119
Sat 1 Jul	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime £89
Sat 22 Jul	Legoland Spectacular £119
Sat 5 Aug	Legoland Spectacular £119
Sat 12 Aug	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime £89
Sat 26 Aug	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime £89
Thu 31 Aug	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour £129
Sat 9 Sep	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour £119
Sat 16 Sep	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice £99
Sat 23 Sep	Legoland Spectacular £99

To book go to **nationalholidays.com** formerly Travelstyle

0844 571 4867

PLUS!!! MANY MORE breaks available...

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

DIGITAL



6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Little Princes Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby: Ireland v Scotland (Kicks-off 2.25 pm). 3.40 Final Score. 5.00 BBC News. 5.20 Regional Programme. 5.30 Celebrity Mastermind. (R)

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Tony Anstis and Jenni Falconer, Janice Long and Bob and Harris, Peter White and Ian and Jan, and the new team of Kate and Steve Penk take part. (R)

6.45 Let It Shine. The finalists take to the stage one last time in the hope of winning the starring roles in Gary Barlow's new musical. **7.00** *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.* Last in the series.

8.25 Casually. Steph, the woman responsible for Grace's hospitalisation, is rushed into the ER after attempting suicide in prison. The staff face an upward spiral in finding out what pill she has taken, one which is made by the more difficult by the patient's refusal to speak - and the cold disdain of both Connie and Jack. However, as the case becomes clear Connie visited Steph in prison not long before she tried to claim her own life, things become even more complicated. Meanwhile, Iain helps Gem to get a job in her hospital gift shop, and when Grace's continued silence is ruled as being a psychological issue, Sam decides it may be time to take her home.

9.15 Taboo. James Delaney confronts Connie and Jack about the pill, hard truth, and plans his escape. However, the Crown has one final, deadly move to make. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News. Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Sky Sports Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Swansea City at Stamford Bridge and Hull City v Burnley at the KOM Stadium.

11.50 This Country. The documentary continues as Ken and Rosemary await the release of their uncle, Steve "Nugget" Nuggins, who they believe was wrongfully imprisoned for "having a laugh".

12.15 Film: Return for the Week Kivala. (R) 1998) 1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.55 BBC News.

10.00 Film: In Which We Serve. (1942) 10 Britain's Secret Seas. (R) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) 1.00 Film: Waterloo. (1970) Historical drama. Directed by Stanley Kubrick. (R) 2.00 Film: The Godfather Part 2. (1974) Mature. (R) 4.00 Mastermind. (R) 4.30 University Challenge. (R) 5.00 Only Connect. (R) 5.30 The House That T'Ekook Built. (R)

6.30 **Flag It!** Will Axon and Michael Baggot value items in Ashbourne, Bedfordshire, including a 19th-century sword and an Asprey and Co picnic set, while Paul Martin experiences harness racing. (R)

7.30 **Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands.** Paul Merton journeys around the coast of the remote island of Harris and Lewis, beginning on Skarp, travelling north to Great Bernera, then south east to Scalpay. (R)

8.00 **Diana: Designing a Princess.** Brenda Emmanuelle explores the life and mind of the most exquisite dresses owned by Diana, Princess of Wales, some of which are on display in an exhibition at Kensington Palace.

8.30 **Dad's Army.** An invasion alert forces the Walmers' household to become heroes into a panic, leading one half of the platoon to launch an attack on the other. (R)

9.00 **Film: My Old Lady.** (2014) Premiere. A penniless New Yorker battles to turn his fortunes around by selling his dead father's flat in Paris, only to find an eccentric elderly Englishwoman is living there – and under French law, he cannot sell until after she dies. As he slowly knows her, the penniless tenant, he discovers a side to his father that he never knew. Comedy drama based on director Israel Horowitz's stage play, starring Maggie Smith, Kevin Kline and Michael Keaton. (R)

10.45 **QI XL.** Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, with guests Matt Lucas, Lucy Porter and Ross Noble joining regular panelist Alan Davies. (R)

11.30 **Film: Albert Nobbs.** (2011) A woman living in disguise as a man in 19th-century Ireland decides to find a wife after a meeting with a fellow cross-dresser. Drama, with Saoirse Ronan and Mia Wasikowska. (R)

1.15 **Film: The Wind Without You.** (2007) The title is BRC TV.

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show (6.35) Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures, (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures (R) 6.45 Sooty, (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) 7.00 Oddbods (R) 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go, (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series, (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry, (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival Skills, (R) 8.35 Scrambled!: Adventure Time, (R) 9.25 ITV News.

9.30 Alphabetical (R) 10.25 Guess This Number (R) 11.25 Off Their Rockers, (R) 11.55 ITV News; Weather. **12.00 Film:** Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home. (1995) (R) 12.30 The Christmas of Jason James Richter. 1.50 Tipping Point, (R) 2.50 The Chase. (R) 3.50 Regional Programme; Weather. 4.00 ITV News; Weather. 4.15 Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Ireland v France (Kick-off: 4.50pm).

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The award-winning presenter duo's weekend variety show returns, and this year, the pair have recruited Gogglebox star and Ant & Dec Celebrity Judge, Simon Scarrow, to become their new co-host. Ant and Dec have teased they have a very big role for Scarrow to fill in the first show, so that one that involves a very punny role that could see her reach new heights – literally. The Gogglebox twoome prank Jamie Oliver in the first of this year's Undercover features, and The Voice UK coach Jennifer Hudson stuns at the End of the Show Show. Also beginning tonight is The Missing Crown Jewels, Ant and Dec's follow-up to Who Shot Simon Cowell?, last year's comedy sketch whodunit. Emilia Fox is stepping back up to the plate, as more celebrity guests are lined up as potential culprits in another mad-cap crime caper.

8.30 The Voice UK. The talent contest moves into the Battle phase, with Tom Jones, Simon Cowell, and Jennifer Hudson expected to shape their protégés into their pop icons.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 Film: The Boat That Rocked. (2009) Richard Curtis's comedy, with Bill Nighy and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

11.10 **Jackpot247. 3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.25 **ITV Nightcrime:**

20.20 Mobil 1 The Grid, 6.45 The King of Queens, (R) 7.10 The King of Queens, (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.30 Frasier (R) 9.00 Frasier, (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 11.00 The Simpsons, (R) 11.30 The Simpsons, (R) 12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast, (R) 1.00 Come Dine With Me, (R) 1.30 Come Dine With Me, (R) 2.00 Come Dine With Me, (R) 2.30 Come Dine With Me, (R) 3.00 Come Dine with Me, (R) 3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun, (R) 4.30 Location, Location, Location, (R) 5.35 Grand Designs, (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 **Pillbox Keith's Favourite Villages** (2014) Premiere. A series travels around Britain visiting villages in different parts of the country, and discovers how people's attitudes have changed to these small villages. Her trip takes her to villages in Devon, Cornwall, Scotland and the Lake District, with the help of insights from the illustrated 1905 Batsford Guides. (R)

8.00 **Great Canal Journeys**. Timothy Wain and Prunella Scales venture into the open sea as they make their way through the islands of Scotland's coast. Their destination is the rarely used nine-kilme Criban canal on the Mull of Kintyre, described as the world's most beautiful shortcut. However, the Atlantic waves off the coast of Mull force them to head inland to Tobermory. They later explore the hidden landscape of Iona and the Isle of Jura. (R)

9.00 **Film: Dawn of the Planet of the Apes**. (2014) Premiere. A colony of super-intelligent apes thrives following a global virus outbreak that wipes out much of the human race. Surviving, the apes make peace with the leader of the apes, but their efforts to reach an understanding are threatened by warmongers on both sides. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Andy Serkis, Jason Clarke and Gary Oldman.

11.35 **Film: Surrogates**. (2009) Sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis and Radha Mitchell.

1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) 2.05 Hollyoaks, 4.15 Kirstie's Fill Your House, 4.30 The Price Is Right, 5.25 Sci-Fi, 5.55 The Price Is Right, 6.25 Sci-Fi, 6.55 The Price Is Right, 7.25 Sci-Fi, 7.55 The Price Is Right, 8.25 Sci-Fi, 8.55 The Price Is Right, 9.25 Sci-Fi, 9.55 The Price Is Right, 10.25 Sci-Fi, 10.55 The Price Is Right, 11.25 Sci-Fi, 11.55 The Price Is Right, 12.25 Sci-Fi, 12.55 Sci-Fi, 1.00 Sci-Fi, 1.30 Sci-Fi, 1.55 Sci-Fi, 2.00 Sci-Fi, 2.30 Sci-Fi, 2.55 Sci-Fi, 3.00 Sci-Fi, 3.30 Sci-Fi, 3.55 Sci-Fi, 4.00 Sci-Fi, 4.30 Sci-Fi, 4.55 Sci-Fi, 5.00 Sci-Fi, 5.30 Sci-Fi, 5.55 Sci-Fi, 6.00 Sci-Fi, 6.30 Sci-Fi, 6.55 Sci-Fi, 7.00 Sci-Fi, 7.30 Sci-Fi, 7.55 Sci-Fi, 8.00 Sci-Fi, 8.30 Sci-Fi, 8.55 Sci-Fi, 9.00 Sci-Fi, 9.30 Sci-Fi, 9.55 Sci-Fi, 10.00 Sci-Fi, 10.30 Sci-Fi, 10.55 Sci-Fi, 11.00 Sci-Fi, 11.30 Sci-Fi, 11.55 Sci-Fi, 12.00 Sci-Fi, 12.30 Sci-Fi, 12.55 Sci-Fi, 1.00 Sci-Fi, 1.30 Sci-Fi, 1.55 Sci-Fi, 2.00 Sci-Fi, 2.30 Sci-Fi, 2.55 Sci-Fi, 3.00 Sci-Fi, 3.30 Sci-Fi, 3.55 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9.00 Milkshake **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.10** Access. **10.45** Police Interceptors Unleashed. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **1.25** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **3.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.15** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul Bohl and Steve Pinner face strong opposition from the council as they are given the task of repossessing a house in which a woman is living with two young children. (R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team hunts for an electromagnetic pulse device that was stolen from a college research facility, and could destroy Los Angeles if activated, killing millions of people.

8.00 NCIS. DiNozzo is reunited with his old friend, Jeanne Benoit, when insurgents in Sudan kidnap her husband and DiNozzo is the guest starring Scottie Thompson.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's Championship games, including Leeds United vs Sheffield Wednesday in a derby at Elland Road, a derby at Elland Road. Plus, action from Aston Villa vs Derby County at Villa Park, Barnsley vs Huddersfield Town at Oakwell and Newcastle United vs Bristol City at St James' Park.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon vs Walsall at Bristol Community Stadium, United.

10.30 Stealing the Mona Lisa. This episode looks back to 1911, when one of the most famous pieces of art across the globe, the Mona Lisa, was stolen from the Louvre museum in Paris.

11.30 Police Interceptors Unleashed. Officers take on a crook who has devised a crafty scheme to get something for nothing, while PC Barry Peach is confronted by a four-mouthed pensiveness. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** That's the 1980s. **4.10** The Margarine Bandits in the Sky. **4.50** SuperCasino. **5.10** The SuperCasino. **5.40** SuperCasino. **6.10** The SuperCasino. **6.40** SuperCasino. **7.10** The SuperCasino. **7.40** SuperCasino. **8.10** The SuperCasino. **8.40** SuperCasino. **9.10** The SuperCasino. **9.40** SuperCasino. **10.10** The SuperCasino. **10.40** SuperCasino. **11.10** The SuperCasino. **11.40** SuperCasino. **12.10** The SuperCasino. **12.40** SuperCasino. **1.10** The SuperCasino. **1.40** SuperCasino. **2.10** The SuperCasino. **2.40** SuperCasino. **3.10** The SuperCasino. **3.40** SuperCasino. **4.10** The SuperCasino. **4.40** SuperCasino. **5.10** The SuperCasino. **5.40** SuperCasino. **6.10** The SuperCasino. **6.40** SuperCasino. **7.10** The SuperCasino. **7.40** SuperCasino. **8.10** The SuperCasino. **8.40** SuperCasino. **9.10** The SuperCasino. **9.40** SuperCasino. **10.10** The SuperCasino. **10.40** SuperCasino. **11.10** The 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7BC Four
7.00 Indian Railways **8.00** Timelapse: The People's Lovers – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **9.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **10.00** Timelapse: Captain Jack **11.00** The Man Behind the Legend **11.00** Top of the Pops 1985 **12.00** The Queen's Coronation – Still a Mountain Girt **1.35** Country Kings at the BBC **2.35** Country Queens at the BBC **3.35** Sounds of the Seventies **3.50** Pop Goes the Sixties **3.55** Close

ITV2
1.10 Ninja Warrior UK **1.20** 10 Take Me Out **1.25** The Brit Awards 2017 **3.55** Out of the Box **4.30** 4.55 **5.05** Daily Mail Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **6.05** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **7.05** Film: Daily 7.05 Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** Film: American Pie (1999) **10.00** Film: **10.15** Film: American Pie **11.00** Film: American Pie **11.15** American Dad! **11.30** American Dad! **12.55** Film: Couples Retreat (2009) **1.55** Film: Daily 2.00 Film: Couples Retreat (2009) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
1.05 Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **2.10** Film: Daily 2.15 Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **3.00** Live: The UK Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.05** Midsummer Murders **11.00** Carry On Forever **12.00** Wyllfice **1.05** Marchlands **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
1.00 Storage Wars: Texas **12.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** TV Racing: Live from Kempton Park **2.00** Live: The UK Legend of Fritton's Gold meetings at Kempton Park, Lingfield Park and Newcastle **4.00** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **5.00** Film: Daily 5.05 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **5.45** Storage Wars **6.00** Live: Snooker Shoot Out **7.00** Film: Red Heat (1988) **12.00** Film: Daily 12.05 Film: Red Heat (1988) **1.05** River Monsters **2.00** Gunsmoke **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.15 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **3.00** Film: The Squeakquel (2009) **4.00** Live: Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Paul (2011) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.20** Gap Year **3.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** Baby Daddy **4.45** Revenge **5.00** Film

ITV1
1.10 The Violent Men (1955) **12.55** Outthroat Island (1995) **1.35** Carry On Cabby (1963) **5.00** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **6.45** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** It Follows **2.10** The Sixth Sense (1999) **3.35** Film

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CHOICE



Sam Riley

SS-GB (BBC1, 9pm)
Archer rushes to the rescue after learning of a resistance plan to kidnap his son. But he is trailed every step of the way by Huth and may be placing the boy in even greater danger. Harry feels betrayed when he finds out that Archer kept the tip-off from Sylvia a secret from him, and expresses his unease about trusting the inexperienced Jimmy with an important case. Archer finds himself morally torn as Huth demands his help in crushing the resistance, who have a plan to free the country from occupation at a terrible price.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) 2.15 Flog It! (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Songs of Praise. 4.35 Shop Well for Less? (R) 5.35 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.
6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. Mariella Frostrup and Richard Coles bring the contestants to Whipsnade Zoo to paint the animals, giving them a chance to demonstrate their ability to capture a sense of a living creature. The first challenge involves flamingos, which have a body shape that is harder to depict than it seems. The artists are then challenged to paint elephants, before the public panel vote for their favourite.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present the show from the Isle of Man. Matt takes a ride on the world's only remaining horse-drawn tram, while Ellie explores the ruins of ancient homesteads from the island's agricultural past and bakes bread using traditional Manx methods. Adam Henson trains a new working dog for his farm and Tom Heap reports on the banning of second homes in Cornwall. Including weather for the week ahead.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Valerie treats a pregnant Somali woman who has undergone female genital circumcision, but who goes into hiding when the Nonnatus Team arrange for her to go into hospital.
9.00 SS-GB. Archer rushes to the rescue after learning of a resistance plan to kidnap his son. But he is trailed every step of the way by Huth and may be placing the boy in even greater danger.
10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme. 10.30 Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You. Stephen Mangan hosts an extended edition of the quiz, with UKIP parliamentary spokesperson Suzanne Evans and comedian Henning Wehn joining Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. (R)
11.15 American High School. 12.00 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 7.15 An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) 7.45 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) 8.45 Countryfile. (R) 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.15 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) 11.45 Nigellissima. (R) 12.15 MOTD Extra. 1.00 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) 1.30 Money for Nothing. (R) 2.15 Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) 3.00 Birds of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest. (R) 4.00 Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships.
6.00 Six Nations Rugby Union. John Inverdale introduces action from the third weekend of the tournament, featuring Scotland v Wales at Murrayfield, England v Italy at Twickenham and Ireland v France at the Aviva Stadium.
7.00 Dragons' Den: Pitches to Riches. Richard Osman presents a look back at some of the most memorable contestants to appear on the business ideas show, and discovers what success they have enjoyed since making their pitch to the panel. Peter Jones pays a visit to celebrity chef Levi Roots, whose company Reggae Reggae Sauce became a success through his appearance on the show, while Deborah Meaden is reunited with Jordan Daykin, the youngest ever contestant to secure the backing of a Dragon, to discover if he has fulfilled his potential as an entrepreneur. (R)
8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of a Welsh delicacy, a male fragrance, and a food delivery service for Michelin star restaurants. With Evan Davis. Last in the series.
9.00 Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week. The remaining recruits arrive in France to receive training with an elite tactical unit of the French police, where they face psychological and strategic challenges.
10.00 Film: Life of Crime. (2013) Premiere. Two criminals kidnap the wife of a corrupt real-estate tycoon, only to discover he is not willing to pay their ransom demand. Comedy with Jennifer Aniston and Mos Def.
11.35 Women's Six Nations Highlights. Elidh Barbour presents action from the third round of fixtures.
12.05 Film: Badlands. (1973) 1.35 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.35 Holly City. (R) 3.30 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. 8.20 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.45 Teen Titans Go! (R) 9.05 Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 10.55 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 11.55 ITV News: Weather. 12.00 The Voice UK. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Italy (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.30 Regional Programme ; Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather.
6.00 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Alastair Stewart presents a second selection of extraordinary footage, including wakeboarders enjoying a memorable encounter with dolphins off the coast of Mexico, a stuntman who became the first person to land a wingsuit without a parachute, and a motorcyclist who was rescued after getting trapped beneath a burning car. Plus, footage of a tornado and a wedding at 30,000 feet.
7.00 The Voice UK. The second night of the Battles phase, in which the singers have to impress coaches Tom Jones, will.i.am, Gavin Rossdale and Jennifer Hudson to remain in the contest. Each of the coaches are given the chance to save any acts they believe shouldn't have been knocked out of the contest in the forthcoming head-to-head sing-offs.
9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. A medical case becomes personal for Ram as he prepares to attend a wedding, while Ruby treats a patient from the UK whose story does not add up.
10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.20 Phillip Schofield's South African Adventure. In the first of three programmes, Phillip Schofield and wife Steph visit South Africa, where the pair admire Cape Town and Phillip gets to see a great white shark. (R)
11.50 The Cube. (R) 12.45 Jackpot247. 3.00 Chopping Block. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 3.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.00 Channel 4 News. 4.30 Film: 101 Dalmatians. (1996) Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close.
6.30 The Jump. The remaining contestants compete in two different disciplines. First, they face a speed ski challenge, the results of which will determine the line-up for the second event - the relatively new winter sport of ski cross, in which they will navigate a winding course of sprints, drops, rollers and banks. Presented by Davina McCall.
8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman. New series. The presenter and fishing enthusiast travels along four of England's greatest rivers, exploring their history, traditions and wildlife. The first episode follows the Tweed along the English-Scottish border, where he helps to shear Cheviot sheep, tags osprey chicks, goes in search of Merlin's grave and discovers the origins of famous border ballads.
9.00 Homeland. Keane ends up left on the sidelines, while Carrie finds her work is starting to impact on her home life.
10.00 Gogglebox. The amateur critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week as the popular series returns for its ninth run. (R)
11.00 Film: Clear and Present Danger. (1994) A CIA analyst is caught up in the Colombian drug trade as he hunts the terrorists who killed a friend of the US president. Action thriller, with Harrison Ford and Willem Dafoe.
1.30 The Last Leg. A comic review of the past seven days. (R) 2.30 Hoarder SOS. Experts persuade a Cambridgeshire woman to part with piles of perfume bottles. (R) 3.25 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Homeowners stuck in properties they cannot sell. (R) 4.20 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) 4.40 Four in a Bed. The week's winner is announced. (R) 5.10 Fifteen to One. General knowledge quiz, hosted by Sandi Toksvig. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.20 Paw Patrol. (R) 6.30 Bop the Builder. (R) 6.45 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.55 Rupert Bear. (R) 7.05 Only the Little White Van. (R) 7.10 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 7.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 7.40 Little Princess. (R) 7.55 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.10 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.10 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.05 Seaside Antics. (R) 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 11.40 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 12.10 Inside Windsor Castle. (R) 1.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) 2.10 Film: No Reservations. (2007) Romantic comedy, with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Aaron Eckhart. 4.10 Film: Bride Wars. (2009) Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway. 5.55 5 News Weekend.
6.00 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) In the 23rd century, the world faces destruction from a seemingly unstoppable force of pure evil. Meanwhile, a New York cab driver encounters a mysterious woman destined to save the Earth from its fate, and has to protect her from a scheming arms dealer and a horde of alien mercenaries. Luc Besson's sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich and Gary Oldman. Edited for language and nudity.
8.15 The EFL Cup Final Highlights: Football on 5. Manchester United v Southampton. Action from the showpiece match, as Jose Mourinho's Red Devils met Claude Puel's Saints at Wembley Stadium.
9.00 Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) A disgraced secret service agent tries to redeem himself when terrorists take control of the White House. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.
11.15 Film: The Terminator. (1984) A cyborg from the future is sent back in time to kill a woman whose unborn son is destined to save the human race. Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger.
1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Sound of Song **8.00** South Downs: England's Mountains Green **9.00 Film:** Two Days, One Night (2014) **10.30 Film:** Hockney (2014) **12.15** Treasures of the Louvre **1.45** Order and Disorder with Jim Al-Khalil **2.45** South Downs: England's Mountains Green **3.45** Close
ITV2
1.00 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.10** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.45** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.05** 2Awesome: Throat Wheel **2.35** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** The Hot Desk: Jonas Blue **3.05** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.10** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.45** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
3.10 Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Carry On Forever **11.05** Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **1.00** Inspector Morse **2.55** May the Best House Win **4.35** On the Buses **5.20** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.45 Live Snooker Shoot-Out. **4.00** Pawn Stars **4.30** The Car Chasers **5.25** World Cup Top Goalscorers **5.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. **10.00** Film: Total Recall (2012) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Total Recall (2012) **12.15** Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **2.15** Hogan's Heroes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.05 Coach Trip: Road to Marbs: Final Week **1.15** The Jump **2.55** The Goldbergs **4.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.55** Film: Men in Black 3 (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: Red (2010) **12.15** Celebs Go Dating **3.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.55** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Colditz Story (1954) **1.00** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **3.15** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.55** 12 Angry Men (1957) **6.50** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) **11.10** Killing Them Softly (2012) **1.00** The Running Man (1987) **3.05** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

From Paris with Love, Channel 5, 10pm

An aide at the American embassy in Paris longs to become a CIA agent, but gets more than he bargained for when he is assigned to assist an trigger-happy secret service operative. The agent leads him on a dangerous journey through the city's underworld as they fight to prevent a terrorist attack on the city. Action thriller, with John Travolta. (2010)

TUESDAY

Dear Diary, I Died, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. When a college student appears to have committed suicide, her sister tries to uncover the secrets behind her death. Thriller, starring Katherine Kelly Lang. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

Fatal Honeymoon, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman goes on honeymoon to Australia, only to drown during a scuba-diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Her father is not convinced this was an accident, and begins to suspect her husband may have murdered her. A year later, he finally finds the evidence to prove his accusation. Fact-based crime drama, starring Harvey Keitel and Billy Miller. (2012)



From Paris with Love, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

A Date to Die For, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A recent divorcee, suffering from bipolar disorder, accepts a date with a single father. The next morning, she awakens to find her date's dead body in her bed, a knife plunged in his chest. Trying to piece together her memories of the previous night, she sets out to defend her reputation and the lives of her family by locating the killer herself. Thriller, starring Victoria Pratt. (2015)

FRIDAY

Zero Dark Thirty, Channel 4, 12.55am

A CIA operative joins a team of intelligence and military operatives in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. She spends the next 10 years searching for information on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, ultimately leading to the final raid on the terrorist leader's hideout. Kathryn Bigelow's fact-based drama, starring Jessica Chastain. (2012)

Duo find they have one final case to solve

It's the beginning of the end...

Once this, the third series of Broadchurch, reaches its conclusion, there will be no more.

The show's writer and creator, Chris Chibnall, is off to pastures new, to take over as showrunner of Doctor Who, while the stars are... well, who knows? But one thing is for sure - all of them are bound to be in demand.

"When Chris Chibnall first sent me the script for the opening episode of Broadchurch six years ago, I was struck by one defining element," claims executive producer Jane Featherstone. "I loved the characters, I loved the beauty of the world, I loved the powerful whodunit narrative, but above all I loved the way it explored a small-town community in such depth."

"Chris' intention was always to inhabit a space which meant we could stay with our characters and our town after the crime has happened, to really examine the long-term effects of a tragic incident on a community. Our characters had lives before we joined them and they will

continue to exist after we have gone."

The final run begins three years on from the events of the previous series, and five years from when we first met the residents.

"There is a bold new crime story which forces us to ask whether the town has a crack running through it caused by Danny Latimer's death; is this new crime somehow the long-term legacy of that dark moment?" says Featherstone. "Our central characters must contend with this possibility as they battle to make hope, friendship and love triumph over fear and suspicion, as a host of new suspects present themselves."

"The great privilege of long-form storytelling is building a meaningful relationship between our characters and the audience and I am excited for the audience to see how Ellie, Hardy and the Latimers have fared in the last few years. It is a fond farewell for those of us involved in the series for so many years, but as far as I am concerned, the community of Broadchurch will carry on living long after we've gone."

Olivia Colman, David Tennant, Jodie Whittaker and Andy Buchanan are all back again, bolstered by Julie Hesmondhalgh, Sarah Parish, Lenny Henry, Mark Bazeley, Georgina Campbell, Charlie Higson and Roy Hudd.

In the opening episode, Ellie (Colman) and Hardy (Tennant) are called out to attend to Trish Winterman (Hesmondhalgh), who has reported a serious sexual assault. It's clear she has been raped, but cannot tell the police where the attack happened, or who carried it out.

A clue found at Trish's home eventually leads them to the crime scene, but it's a difficult and unusual setting - and one that proves difficult for the forensics team to work in. But, perhaps more disturbing than anything else, is the fact that evidence suggests it was not an opportunistic act, but rather a cold, calculated and planned one.

Hardy considers the theory that once again, a serious sexual predator is at large in the otherwise sleepy coastal town - and may strike again at any moment.



Olivia Colman and David Tennant star in Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The 2,000,000 Calorie Buffet Channel 4, 10pm

For some of us, just seeing that title makes us salivate. The idea of being able to tuck into a banquet of lovely nosh without having to hold back or stop, even if our insides are at bursting point, is something we dream of. It's almost a challenge too - to find out who can consume the most at one sitting. The concept of an all-you-can-eat buffet is thought to have originated in Las Vegas, but they are now a growing phenomenon on this side of the Atlantic too, but who benefits from such an approach - the customers or the restaurants desperate to pull in the punters? We're about to find out courtesy of this documentary, which takes viewers into the heart of three eateries whose managers are wondering if adopting the service was really a good idea.

TUESDAY

The Replacement BBC1, 9pm

Moven Christie stars in a new three-part thriller about a woman who fears she is losing her identity - but is that because she's about to become a mother, or is someone genuinely out to steal her life? Architect Ellen (Christie) discovers she's

pregnant shortly after winning a big contract for her firm. She hires Paula (Vicky McClure) as maternity cover, but becomes uneasy when the new recruit dismisses Ellen's plans to return to work in a couple of months, insisting that she will want to spend more time with her baby. As Paula ingratiates herself with Ellen's bosses, clients and even her friends, the mum-to-be starts to fear that her new employee plans to become her permanent replacement. Everyone else puts Ellen's concerns down to a mix of paranoia and pregnancy, but then a terrible accident strikes the firm.

WEDNESDAY Little Big Shots ITV, 8pm

Dawn French presents this new series which gives a platform to some of the world's most talented children, without forcing them to be subjected to any judges or a telephone vote. Instead, they get to have a nice, friendly chat with Dawn before showing off their incredible skills, which can range from cooking to a flair for spelling. In the first episode, we meet

ballroom and Latin dancing sensations Joshua and Kerry, 9, from Ireland, as well as gifted pianist Leo, 8, from Manchester. We're also introduced to three remarkable seven-year-olds; Balang, from the Philippines, who shows us how he became an internet dance sensation, football fanatic Braydon from Warrington, and London-based kung-fu warrior Junayde. There's also music courtesy of 10-year-old Norwegian jazz sensation Angelina.



The Replacement, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

Prime Suspect 1973 ITV, 9pm

It was first announced back in 2015 and has taken almost two years to reach us, but will this prequel to Lynda La Plante's much-loved crime drama series be worth the wait? Early signs are good; the period detail is intact and the cast

look impressive. The original programme turned Helen Mirren into a household name thanks to her portrayal of hard-bitten detective Jane Tennison; Doctor Thorne star Stefanie Martini will have big shoes to fill when she takes over the role, playing Tennison as a 22-year-old WPC straight out of training and onto the streets of Hackney. She suffers sexism everywhere she turns, but looks set to make her mark when she is assigned to her first murder case, which involves the death of a teenage girl. Sam Reid and Blake Harrison also appear.

FRIDAY

Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships BBC2, 3pm

Gabby Logan presents coverage of the second session on day one from the Kombank Arena in Belgrade, Serbia, where medals are awarded in five events. Katarina Johnson-Thompson concludes her bid to retain the pentathlon title when she competes in the long jump and 800m, while the other finals taking place are in the men's pole vault and 60m hurdles, and the women's shot put and 60m hurdles. With commentary and analysis from Steve Backley, Steve Cram, Colin Jackson, Denise Lewis and Paula Radcliffe.

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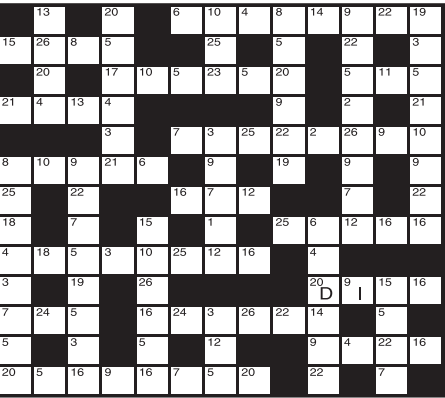
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Q	L	N	Z	K	E	B	I	A	O	F	C	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	G	R	M	X	V	P	U	W	J	Y	T	D

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

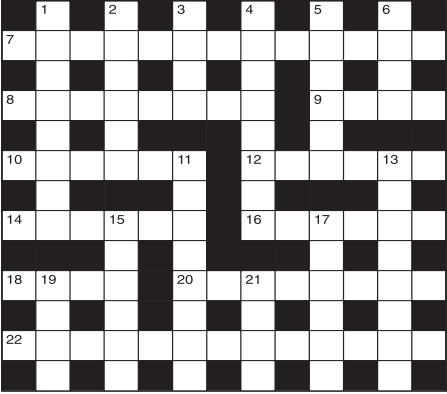
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. A fitting description, as a rule (4,2,7)
- 8. Placed in a grave position (8)
- 9. A particular variation of time (4)
- 10. It's hot to the tongue, and cold to the ear (6)
- 12. After all, it is very new (6)
- 14. Added zest in the kitchen (6)
- 16. His map is spoiled by accident (6)
- 18. The odd dose of poetry? (4)
- 20. He won't expect to be taken seriously when working (8)
- 22. Are friends and succeed in a joint enterprise (3,2,8)

Down

- 1. It must honour its pledges (4,4)
- 2. Make something known about calf meat (6)
- 3. Number who sound as though they approve (4)
- 4. Part of a movement set to swing time (8)
- 5. A fool it's wrong to help (6)
- 6. Let out for no rent (4)
- 11. Show I can edit afresh (8)
- 13. One who makes predictions about a distant traveller (8)
- 15. It's regular trade practice (6)
- 17. Teased about being placid (6)
- 19. Special fare for a conference (4)
- 21. They gave original Christmas gifts, showing some imagination (4)



Quick Clues:

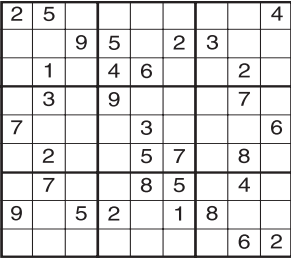
Across

- 7. Moody (13)
- 8. Gloomy (8)
- 9. Part (4)
- 10. Cask (6)
- 12. Split (6)
- 14. Decrease (6)
- 16. Piping (6)
- 18. Couple (4)
- 20. Easily frightened (8)
- 22. Additional (13)

Down

- 1. Adjust (8)
- 2. Seem (6)
- 3. Press (4)
- 4. Tacit (8)
- 5. False (6)
- 6. Lament (4)
- 11. Extend (8)
- 13. Front line (8)
- 15. Streak (6)
- 17. Scold (6)
- 19. Adjoin (4)
- 21. Submissive (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	9	8	3	2	1	4	7	6
2	1	3	7	6	4	9	5	8
4	7	6	9	5	8	3	1	2
6	4	2	5	1	3	7	8	9
8	5	7	4	9	6	2	3	1
9	3	1	2	8	7	6	4	5
1	6	4	8	3	9	5	2	7
3	2	9	1	7	5	8	6	4
7	8	5	6	4	2	1	9	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Idea; 8 Drummed out; 9 Abstract; 10 Earn; 12 Nearly; 14 Yields; 15 Parkas; 17 Litter; 18 Lean; 19 Rosemary; 21 Fall asleep; 22 Sage. Down: 2 Double dated; 3 Adit; 4 Queasy; 5 Smithy; 6 Adherent; 7 Eton; 11 Red herring; 13 Rekindle; 16 Stress; 17 Listen; 18 Left; 20 Maps. QUICK - Across: 1 High; 8 Ameliorate; 9 Material; 10 Copy; 12 Fickle; 14 Report; 15 Abject; 17 Rather; 18 Mean; 19 Intimate; 21 Persuasive; 22 Tend. Down: 2 Invariable; 3 Hale; 4 Device; 5 Killer; 6 Crackpot; 7 Deny; 11 Perfection; 13 Keenness; 16 Tribal; 17 Retain; 18 Mope; 20 Meet.

Quiz

- 1. Which people's word for a European means 'the big eyebrows'?
- 2. Who starred as Hannibal Lecter in Silence of the Lambs?
- 3. Which two countries originally contested the Ryder Cup?
- 4. Of which beetle is the wireworm the larva?
- 5. What is a mountain lion or cougar more correctly called?
- 6. Who regained the world heavyweight boxing championship after more than 20 years in 1994?
- 7. In which country was the first Women's Institute group founded in 1897?
- 8. Who is the only US president to have been elected for four consecutive terms?
- 9. Of which country have there been three king Victor Emmanuels?
- 10. Who succeeded Bobby Fischer as world chess champion in 1975?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 African wildcat; 2 Yashmak; 3 Sister Act; 4 Rio de Janeiro; 5 Michael Heseltine; 6 Terracotta; 7 Marsupial; 8 Finland; 9 Robert Powell; 10 Pear tree. Niner: PURCHASED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1679749 gives flowers,
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3728459 gives even more flowers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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It's easy to get around Hamburg via the city's over and underground train lines



Speicherstadt district with the new Elbphilharmonie



The Reeperbahn Festival takes its name from the popular Reeperbahn Street



Beer o'clock at the famous Ratsheern brewery

City of culture, canals and Currywurst

IT was like stepping into a movie set. Tall, red brick-buildings lined the old canals. The district, once a thriving hub of activity, was now eerily quiet except for the faint echoes that bounced off the walls.

We were walking through the Speicherstadt, or the 'Old Warehouse City', a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A castle-like restaurant awaited us several hundred yards away where we were to have lunch. It was sat on one of the bridges crossing the canal.

I had a Currywurst – a steamed (then fried) sausage topped off with a spicy ketchup and curry powder. It was an interesting combination.

The Restaurant, called Wasserschloss, proved a great setting to take in the surroundings. We were perched up on tables on an outside deck. I could make out cranes spaced out along the copper roof tops – which were used for winching up cargo into the warehouses for storage.

"The storage companies moved out about

Hamburg, Germany

25 years ago," my tour guide Paul Klein said. "And modern companies moved in for office space." It was one of Hamburg's many distinctive districts. The Speicherstadt was built in the late 19th and early 20th century, with its buildings and architecture unique to Hamburg.

Around the corner was a newly-opened coffee museum, which housed all information and equipment about coffee. Coffee is important in Hamburg's history. Coffee was one of the main commodities stored in the warehouses, alongside others such as tea and carpet, which is why the museum had opened up in the Speicherstadt.

Wunderland

Also close by was 'Miniatur Wunderland' – the largest model railway in the world. Exhibitions spanning multiple floors displayed tiny replicas of cities across the world – including Las Vegas and, of course, Hamburg.

And the settings of the exhibitions would

change from day to night every few minutes, which gave an added authentic touch. Hamburg has many tales, spread out across districts of different time periods. Each one with a unique appearance and vibe.

The city was bombed heavily during the Second World War, so a lot of re-development has taken place. This includes the overdue 800 million Euro symphony hall due to open this year, called the Elbphilharmonie.

A few blocks away from the Speicherstadt was St Pauli – a district in total contrast to the sleepy warehouse area. It is well known for its entertainment and night-life. Parts of it were not family friendly.

It was the old stomping ground of The Beatles in the 1960s, which is still celebrated today. It is also home to one of Europe's largest legal red light districts.

We were taken through the colourful streets by musician Stefanie Hempel. She showed us the venues that The Beatles once played, whilst performing their hit-songs. "The Beatles got their trademark haircut whilst in Hamburg," she said, adopting the style of German art students.

The waterways of Hamburg are important part of life in the city. The canals run to the River Elbe, and restaurants will often serve up fish on their menus, including fresh water shrimps.

The Ratsheern Brewery, located in St Pauli, offered great beer, which could be sampled on tours of the brewery. The overground and underground train lines made navigating the city easy.

I stayed at the Hotel Reichshof during my trip, located right across the road from Hamburg's central train station, Hauptbahnhof. It was a traditional hotel across six storeys with a restaurant, bar, and sports and spa facilities.

After five days experiencing the city, I found Hamburg a warm city with real character, culture and authenticity.

Each district offered something different – shopping, history, art, museums and entertainment.

Hamburg would make an enjoyable getaway trip for a city break, whatever time of year, where you can find a genuine look into modern Germany.

Jamie Brassington

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No chain for immaculate four-bedroom detached home

WEDNESBURY
£199,950 <<<

An immaculate detached four-bedroomed home in Finery Road, Wednesbury, is for sale through Skitts at £199,950 with no selling chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the property has four bedrooms, a lounge and dining room, a kitchen and utility room, a downstairs wc, en-suite shower room, a driveway with a garage and a rear garden.

The property is positioned on a lovely estate in Wednesbury. Viewings are highly recommended.

The selling agents are expecting a lot of interest to be shown in this home, as it is so attractively presented and well designed.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, please contact the selling agents, Skitts, on 0121 505 1818 or visit www.skitts.net



Ideal three-bed home is in a prime location

BEARWOOD
£305,000

Occupying a prime Bearwood position on Lightwoods Hill, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house is an ideal family home for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £305,000 with no chain.

It has an entrance porch, an entrance hall, two reception rooms, a conservatory, kitchen, office space, a WC, garage, three bedrooms and a bathroom and loft space.

This traditional property is a most sought-after style is ideally situated within the heart of Bearwood, directly opposite Lightwoods Park and close to the Bearwood High Street. Bearwood is home to local shopping, bus services into Birmingham City Centre, access to several leisure centres and Warley Woods and Golf Course.

Call Robert Oulsnam on 0121 429 9986.



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BOURNEHEATH, Parish Hill£850 pcm+Fees
A delightful cottage having views over open countryside situated in this very sought after location. This quaint cottage has 3 bedrooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, lounge with wood burner & beamed ceiling, downstairs bathroom with shower. Also including garden with large outbuilding & parking for 2 cars. EPC Rating: D



HALESOWEN, Hurst Green Road£750 pcm+Fees
A lovely large terraced home in this popular area of Hurst Green featuring 3 good size bedrooms, also an additional loft room for storage only, spacious lounge, kitchen/dining area, modern house bathroom with shower, downstairs w.c. driveway for 2/3 cars. A property not to be missed! EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Mendip Road£750 pcm+Fees
A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squinels Estate in Halesowen/Hayley Green, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, parking and garage. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road£750 pcm+Fees
NOT BE TO MISSED! A recently refurbished 3 bed semi located in central Halesowen. The property features open plan rear lounge, bay windowed front reception room, modern kitchen, utility room and downstairs w.c. Upstairs there are 2 good size doubles and a small single ideal for nursery or a study, bathroom with shower over "P" shaped bath. Also benefits shared driveway for 2 vehicles. EPC: E



SMETHWICK, Milcote Road£675 pcm+Fees
Mid-terraced 2 double bedroom house available in this very popular location of Bearwood, close to Warley Woods. The property has 2 reception rooms, one with french doors leading to a private rear garden, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. On road parking. EPC: TBC



LYE/WOLLASCOTE, Spring Street£825 pcm+Fees
Detached 2 bedroom period house. At the end of the cul-de-sac is access to Wollascote park, and shops close by. This lovely property features front lounge and rear lounge with feature fireplaces, well fitted kitchen with fridge freezer, 2 good size bedrooms & a downstairs modern bathroom with shower. Long rear easy maintenance garden with rear parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Park Road£625 pcm+Fees
A modern semi detached house on the number 9 bus route to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham. Having been completely re-decorated and new laminate downstairs and new carpets upstairs. Briefly comprising: Lounge, kitchen/dining area with white goods, rear garden, 2 bedrooms, master with en-suite toilet and sink, a further house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, parking for 2/3 cars at the rear and a garage. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Cobham Road£595 pcm+Fees
Well presented 2 double bedroom mid terraced house situated in this popular residential location being in walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. This property benefits from 2 reception rooms, 1 with dining area & patio doors leading to rear garden, kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



OLDBURY, The Hawthornes", Hagley Road West£595 pcm+Fees
A 2 bedroom 1st floor flat located in this very desirable location with bus links to Birmingham City Centre, fitted kitchen, nice sized lounge, 2 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking at rear. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Malt Mill Lane£575 pcm+Fees
Located minutes from Blackheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2, is this well presented and modern 2 bed mid-terraced house, modern fitted kitchen, lovely lounge, private low maintenance rear garden, white bathroom suite with shower, 1 double and 1 large single bedrooms, driveway parking. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Mincing Lane£575 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished traditional 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location, which is ideal for local shops, bus links and the M5 J2. This family home features entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, front & rear gardens, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Winwood Road£575 pcm+Fees
A part furnished to suit semi detached family home in a popular location, close to the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and driveway parking for 2/3 cars. EPC: C



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Ladysmith Road£550 pcm+Fees
A beautiful mid terrace house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, local shops and bus links to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham. This house features 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. A property not to be missed!. EPC: E



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £495 pcm+Fees
A lovely modern 1st floor apartment available from 07/03/17, which is ideally located for Dudley and Wednesbury. This great apartment features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens, internal viewing recommended. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Powke Lane£495 pcm+Fees
Deceptively large and well worth a viewing. This 1st floor apartment features a good size double bedroom, spacious lounge, large kitchen, huge bathroom with a separate shower cubical, parking to the side of the property and also within walking distance to Blackheath Town Centre. EPC: F



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive £495 pcm+Fees
A part furnished 2nd floor apartment close to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring an open plan lounge/dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, alarm, allocated parking. EPC TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£450 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed with electric heating. The accommodation, which has been refurbished briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, communal gardens and parking. EPC: TBC



WORCESTER, Martley Road£410 pcm+Fees
●●STUDENT LET●● A room with this three bedroom semi detached home, which is gas centrally heated and double glazed (where spec). Being within a short walk from University of Worcester.



LYE/STOURBRIDGE, High Street£375 pcm+Fees
In the Centre of Lye which is ideal for houses, shops and Lye Train Station. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: E



KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road£350 pcm+Fees
Recently refurbished studio apartment with new carpet close to Kidderminster Hospital & Town Centre. Lounge & combined bedroom, fitted kitchen with oven/hob. Bathroom with shower. Central Heating. Available now. EPC: TBC



LYE/STOURBRIDGE, Eagle House£285 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lye Town, also close for Lye Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: E

PROPERTY



Substantial detached property with conservatory

To be sold for the first time since new in 1991, this substantial and versatile 4/5 bed roomed extended detached house in Steatite Way, Stourport-On-Severn, is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard at £250,000.

It has a reception hall, ground floor bedroom five or study/playroom – depending upon user requirements – a living room, a dining room, a

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

£250,000

conservatory extension, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, a cloakroom/WC, 4 bedrooms (with an ensuite shower room to the master bedroom), a house bathroom, a block paved driveway and level enclosed rear gardens.

An excellent family home, interested parties are being urged to view quickly. A spokesman for the gents said: "Number 97 Steatite Way is an excellent four-bedroom detached house offering a spacious spread of accommodation, eminently capable of serving a wide variety of family uses."

Contact Phipps & Pritchard on 01299 822060.



Remarkably spacious four-bedroomed family home

GORNAL WOOD

£400,000

A luxuriously appointed and remarkably spacious four-double bedroomed home in Guys Lane, Gornal Wood, is recently new to the property market.

It is for sale through Taylors at £400,000. Its accommodation includes a canopy porch, imposing reception hall (with lofty ceiling heights), a fitted cloakroom/WC, a separate dining room, elegant lounge, magnificent 17 ft kitchen with an extensive range of contemporary style high-gloss finish units and many integrated appliances and a utility room. There is also a gallery landing, four double bedrooms (principal bedroom with a shower room en-suite), a bathroom, a garage and landscaped grounds.

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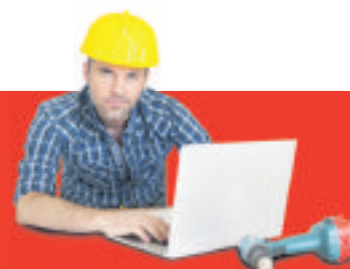
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Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person
At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral directors
N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors

24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

**monumental
masons**
**HALESTONE
MEMORIALS**
Modern and traditional memorials

Ring for FREE brochure
0121 550 4235

Or visit our showroom at
**Somers Road,
Halesowen B62 8EN**

www.halestonememorials.co.uk

**1
Family**

**elderly &
disabled**

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Excellent condition. Four
wheels. Fits easily in a car boot.
Can deliver.
£275.
07905 770683.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Medium size, 4 wheels, new
batteries, super condition.
Absolute bargain £395.
Can possibly deliver.
0121 440 2867 /
07804 239956.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
255019 / 07831 246292.

STANNAH STAIRLIFT. Straight run
over 12 stairs. Can be seen
working. £750 ono. 01384 270683.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned
lifts from £799. New available.
01952 405397/07897 273617

**2
Leisure Time**

caravans wanted

**WANTED
ALL CARAVANS**
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996

WANTED
CARAVAN WANTED
Cash on pick up asap.
Caravan wanted. Call me any
time on
07717 090817

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED.
no objection to work, anything
considered. Please telephone
0980 365757.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies
on the first day of publication.

**caravans /
motorhomes**
**We Want Your
Motorhome**
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid

Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

**COSALT MADEIRA
HOLIDAY STATIC
CARAVAN**
35 x 12, DG, CH, 2 bedroom, on
11 months licence, with onsite
clubhouse.
Stourport-on-Severn.
£13,500.
For full details call
07810 044813 or 07801
530894.

**QUALITY
CARAVAN**
WILLERBY STATIC
Mid Wales, DG, CH, 2 bedroom
and 1 sofa bed. Large decking
area overlooking river. Ground
rent paid till March 2018.
£10,000 ono.
07855 483259.

**camping
equipment**
BARGAIN

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT
Dorset porch awning, 380cm x
240cm, as new, still boxed.
Cost New £800 sell £595 ono.
Two x 40 litre water butts. £20
each.
One Wastemaster. £15.
One Tow hitchlock. £20.
Two inner tents £10 each.
Two Folding metal chairs £7
each.
All in good condition.
01902 783174.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED
anything considered. New or Old
01802 724011 or 07931 568716

**jumble sales /
fetes**

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 26th February
Next Sale: 12th March
**KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE**
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

sports & leisure

FULL SET of Golf Clubs for sale.
£100.
01384 896654.

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale
on 5th Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant.
Child & pet friendly, 20 acres
walking woodland £24,995 inc
2017 site fees Call 01568 708 926.

what's on

markets

**BESCOT
SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY**
Bank's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING, 39 M6
07889 97501 All hard standing

**3
Home &
Services**

furniture

BROWN LEATHER suite, 2, two
seater sofas, 1 reclining chair, £250
ono. 01902 674714.

LEATHER RECLINING Three piece
suite, two tone grey, 6 months old.
£800 ono.
01902 784911.

in your garden

LAWN TRACTOR
22hp, 42 inch cut with collector,
totally new and unused.
Cost £4,000.
Will accept £1,995.
Can deliver.
Telephone 07710 169150.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Jewellery • Gold • Silver • Diamonds • Pearls
• Watches • Costume Jewellery
• All Silver • All Oriental Items
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS**
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219 / 07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@
hotmail.com

A BEST PRICE PAID All collectables
from wars wanted by collector,
medals, helmets, swords etc.
07511 500337.

GOOD PRICES PAID for blu-rays &
modern clean clothes adults and
childrens, can collect. 07551
168310.

J40 PEDAL CAR Auto cycle, Sinclair
C5, Vintage vending machines,
anything old, Old fire arms. 01384
484309 / 07930 949337.

MYFORD METAL cutting lathe
wanted, Myford super 7/ML7
wanted any condition considered.
01922 445739.

OLD POCKET and wrist watches
wanted, all conditions, also
menders clearances, parts, etc.
01746 765278, 07713 345216.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully
consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

RECORDS WANTED
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk,
Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's indie.
Collections bought.
Music Memorabilia, Promo
Posters, autographs, etc, etc.
Top prices paid.
Telephone 07966 252439.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus
any Spectrum 128k +2 computer
wanted also any old Crash maga-
zines wanted. 01902 892918.

**specialists at
your service**

aerials

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount,
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
CHECK CARD
CREDIT CARD

**CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS**

"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

**carpentry &
joinery**

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-
primed doors fully fitted from £370.
0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
6 x 5 Heavy Duty Lap Panels
£12.95 each
Fitting service available on D.I.Y.

0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W.bury
**DELIVERY
AVAILABLE**
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**gardening
services**

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services. Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work
Undertaken. All Areas. Call
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

skip hire
**CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS**

"Thanks to
our Classified
advertising in the
Express & Star we
are really busy!"

It definitely
works for us!"

Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save \$\$\$
All size skips and all areas covered
Some day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

**t.v. / home
entertainment**

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS**

"TV Link are really
pleased with their
response from
their Classified
Campaign"

Bill - TV Link
For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**4
Pets &
Animals**

**equestrian
corner**

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

GRAZING WANTED for horses,
upto 20 acres, prepared to fence
field. Any area considered. 01384
78588 / 07572 687123.

IFOR WILLIAMS 505 Trailer, blue,
alloy floor, kept in barn. Good con-
dition. £1,700. 07986 899681 /
01743 719582.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

DOG KENNEL and run, 5 months
old, 6ft high x 6ft deep, x 4ft wide,
£200 ono. Buyer to dismantle and
collect. 0121 520 7125.

VERY SWEET CATS
One ten year old girl, other 11
year old boy, looking for home
together, they are house cats,
not used to going outside, suit
retired persons or someone
living alone.
07847 360784.

vets

Express & Star

**THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS**

Every day our
customers get a
great response
from Classified
Advertising.

So could you by
calling our friendly
experienced Sales
Advisors on
01902 319191.

**5
Business &
Farming**

**business
opportunities**

READERS are recommended to take
appropriate professional
advice before entering any
obligations.

**6
Property**

land

SINGLE BUILDING plot, Bradmore,
planning permission for Bungalow.
£45,000. Exchange considered.
07774 899666, 01902 747180

**overseas
property**

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE

You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6

or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW subject to terms

FOR YOUR HOUSE

- Legal Fees Paid
- No Fees
- Any Condition
- Guaranteed Offer
- Repossessions Stopped
- We can buy your house in 2 days

0800 389 6788

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Need to sell your home fast?

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ...

you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0797

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

*Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Home Cash Buyer

Set today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

accommodation to let

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA

2004 plate, 84k, same owner last 4 years, Blue, Long MoT. £795.

07913 981460.

7 Jobs

employment wanted

BUILDER Seeks employment, brick-laying, garden, walls, block paving, fencing, decking, concreting. 07539 886217

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 21-22 JUNE
WOLVERHAMPTON: 15-16 JULY

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

More info or to book: **www.geospace.com**

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOU

full time - general

RYDALE WINDOWS
(Manufacturing) Ltd

Established over 32 years

Service Engineer and Conservatory Bricklaying Base Team

Must have experience within the industry
Based in Long Lane, Halesowen
Good rates of pay & working conditions

Please forward c.v. to:
wayne@rydalewindows.co.uk
or telephone **0121 559 4211**

1000s OF JOBS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Register your CV today, visit:

jobs.expressandstar.com

WE CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB!

- CV UPLOAD
- JOB ALERTS
- CV MATCHING

LOW MILEAGE

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.2

04 reg, 5-door, excellent condition, 12 months MoT.

£1,375 ono

07572 608894.

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO 1400

Full MoT, silver, good runner / condition inside and out, radio/CD, alloys.

£675 ono.

01902 862610.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

cars over £1500

LOOK

SUZUKI WAGON R 1.3GL+

52 reg, silver, 5-door, clean, reliable car, MoT, only 29,000 miles from new.

£450 ono

07817 435084.

AUTOMATIC

TOYOTA YARIS GLS

AUTOMATIC, 1.3,

Nov 2000 reg, factory fitted sunroof, power steering, 3-dr, metallic black, MoT Nov 24, 2017, One former keeper. 65,000 miles, £795 ono.

07923 132859

LOW MILEAGE

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.2

04 reg, 5-door, excellent condition, 12 months MoT.

£1,375 ono

07572 608894.

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO 1400

Full MoT, silver, good runner / condition inside and out, radio/CD, alloys.

£675 ono.

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LOOK

SUZUKI WAGON R 1.3GL+

52 reg, silver, 5-door, clean, reliable car, MoT, only 29,000 miles from new.

£450 ono

07817 435084.

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TOYOTA YARIS GLS

AUTOMATIC, 1.3,

Nov 2000 reg, factory fitted sunroof, power steering, 3-dr, metallic black, MoT Nov 24, 2017, One former keeper. 65,000 miles, £795 ono.

07923 132859

LOW MILEAGE

SUZUKI ALTO

2014, Red, 5Dr, 12,000 miles, immaculate condition, full MoT. Genuine calls only.

£4,200.

01902 496149

or

07951 664184.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 2013

57,000 miles. Black. ABS. E/W. Air bag. E/M. Air Con. Alarm. MoTd. Metallic Paint. C/L. Cruise control. PAS. Alloys. Stereo/CD. £4,100 ono.

07930 557368.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2 LITRE CDTI SRI

60,000 miles. Black, 60 reg. MoT. Excellent condition.

£4,250 ono.

07913 981460.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

MERCEDES SPRINTER van 313, LWB, F reg, 02.6 months MoT, 2 new tyres. New exhaust/tail pipe. £1,000. 07973 799218.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.

Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

SMALL VAN wanted Berlingo or Peugeot Partner. 01902 713465. 07967 952821

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

5 Stars

YOUNG AT HEART 60 YEAR OLD LADY

No ties, wishes to meet Gentleman for Companionship, meals, theatre, walks and holidays, for Friendship or maybe more.

Box Number P20710, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

MEET SEXY local women, genuine adult contacts, fast & discreet. Call 0330 62244/07008 026348.

DINING SOCIAL GROUP

Are you tired of dining on your own? Want to meet other like minded friendly people on a fortnightly basis? If so text me on the number below for regular invites in the Stourbridge area.

Telephone 07429 650050.

WE NAILED IT!

Classified Advertising Works!

To advertise your business call **01902 319 191**

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS

Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang. Best prices paid. Any condition. Collections bought. **Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.**

DINING SOCIAL GROUP

Are you tired of dining on your own? Want to meet other like minded friendly people on a fortnightly basis? If so text me on the number below for regular invites in the Stourbridge area.

Telephone 07429 650050.

MEET SEXY local women, genuine adult contacts, fast & discreet. Call 0330 62244/07008 026348.

5 Stars

YOUNG AT HEART 60 YEAR OLD LADY

No ties, wishes to meet Gentleman for Companionship, meals, theatre, walks and holidays, for Friendship or maybe more.

Box Number P20710, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Citigo gets new front end and an upgraded interior



A new bonnet, radiator grille, bumper and fog lights

From spring, the Škoda Citigo is being presented with comprehensive upgrades to the exterior design and some revisions in the interior.

Bonnet, radiator grille, bumpers and fog lights with optional cornering function come in a new design. Specially designed 15-inch alloy wheels complete the new look. Škoda's city car impresses with its generous amount of space, excellent layout, high level of safety, great handling, efficient drivetrain variants and numerous 'Simply Clever' features. Value for money – typical of the brand – rounds off the city runabout's offering. The Škoda Citigo will celebrate its premiere at the Geneva International Motor Show next month.

With the revisions, the Citigo has grown by 34 mm to a length of 3,597 mm. The width of the five-door version remains at 1,645 mm and the height at 1,478 mm. Thanks to its generous 2,420-mm wheelbase, Škoda engineers were able to create an interior which also offers sufficient space for rear passengers. The 251 litre boot, which increases to 951 litres when the rear seats are down, ranks amongst the best competitor values.

It is the perfect vehicle for urban mobility: compact yet spacious, economical and nimble at the same time, attractive, safe and equipped with many practical 'Simply Clever' features.

Available in S, SE, SE L and Monte Carlo trim levels, UK customers can also opt for the stylish Colour Edition.



A Kiwi Green body colour is a new addition

The front section has been: a new bonnet, a redesigned radiator grille in typical Škoda design, modified bumpers and updated fog lights create a fresh, young look. The tinted tail lights are now also available for the SE trim line. A colour package with roof and wing mirrors offset in white or black is available for Colour Edition.

The front headlights are fitted with LED daytime running lights and the fog lights come with an optional cornering function, which lights up the area the vehicle is turning into on junctions with poor visibility. To this end, the cornering function automatically switches on the left or right fog light when turning at speeds of up to 25 mph.

New 15-inch alloy wheels in silver and anthracite for the SE L trim level and the Kiwi Green body colour, which is a new addition to the programme, complete the options for creating an individual exterior design.

One of the many active safety features is the automatic braking function City Safe Drive. The optional Emergency Brake helps to prevent collisions in urban traffic. The assistance system is automatically activated at speeds between 3 and 19 mph. A laser sensor, integrated in the windscreen, scans a 10-metre area in front of the car. In the event of an impending collision – if the driver does not react – the braking system is primed and the hydraulic Brake Assist function becomes more sensitive. If necessary, the system initiates a full application of the brakes to bring the car to a standstill or – if the driver is not braking hard enough – supports the driver by providing full braking.

The interior has a clean and clearly arranged design and layout of the instruments as well as with a two-colour dashboard in the higher trim levels. The new-generation Blues and Swing radio models offer many connectivity options – ranging from an aux-in socket to an SD card slot and a USB socket. A colour display, six speakers and a Bluetooth connection are added to the Swing variant.

Two modern three-cylinder petrol engines are available. The front-, transverse-mounted engines with a 1.0-litre capacity drive the front wheels. Despite their small capacity, the engines distinguish themselves through high torque with low noise levels. The entry-level engine is the 1.0 MPI with 60 PS and 95 Nm of torque at 3,000 rpm. From a standing start, it accelerates the Citigo to 62 mph in 14.4 seconds, reaches a top speed of 100 mph and averages 68.9mpg on the combined cycle.

With the 75 PS 1.0 MPI, maximum torque of 95 Nm is available at 3,000 rpm. The additional power is due to the modified engine control of the three-cylinder model. It accelerates to 62mph in 13.5 seconds, reaches a top speed of 107 mph and averages 68.9mpg on the combined cycle. All values apply to the variant with 5-speed manual gearbox, with start-stop system and brake energy recovery.

OakGarage.co.uk

Oak Garage your local RAC Approved Dealer.



Only 500 Yards From Merry Hill Shopping Centre

Our Low Mileage Selection

13 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4T 16V Exclusiv Auto Brown Only 5000 Miles	£7,495
14 Ford C-max 1.6 TDCi Titanium Red Only 6000 Miles	£10,995
63 Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Blue Only 7000 Miles	£9,495
13 Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Match Edition DSG Silver Only 9000 Miles	£9,495
65 Peugeot 308 1.6 BlueHDI 120 Allure Grey Only 10000 Miles	£11,295
64 Skoda Octavia 1.2 TSI S Blue Only 12000 Miles	£9,495
13 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.4 VTi 16V VTR+ Silver Only 12000 Miles	£6,495
64 Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite Brown Only 12000 Miles	£9,295
Citroen	
59 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V VTR+ Red 58k	£4,795
63 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTi 16V VTR+ 5dr EGS6 Silver 27k	£7,495
13 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi Platinum Bronze 35k	£10,495
11 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS6 Blue 39k	£7,995
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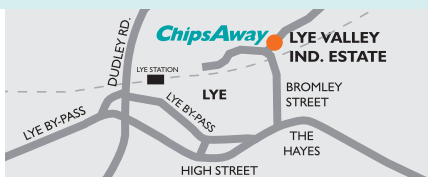


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MOTORING

Covers come off the new luxury flagship G-Class

Mercedes-Maybach has pulled the covers off its new G 650 Landulet – the most exclusive and luxurious G-Class ever produced.

The open-top SUV is the first off-roader the Maybach sub-brand has produced, and will be limited to a production run of 99 units.

It will be powered by a Mercedes-AMG V12 bi-turbo engine that produces 621bhp and 1,000Nm of torque. The claimed combined fuel economy for the G 650 stands at 16.6mpg, with CO2 emissions of 397g/km.

Measuring more than five metres in length, with a wheelbase of 3,428mm, there is a huge amount of space available in the G 650's cabin.

The driver and passenger seats sit under a closed roof, while the two rear seats lie beneath the electric folding fabric roof. The "first-class" back seats can be fully reclined and feature a massage function as well as a calf rest. Rear passengers also have access to two 10-inch, high-resolution media displays.

The diamond-stitched leather upholstery is available in four different colours, and is two-tone in all cases. The fabric roof comes in three different colours, while customers have a choice of four different colours for the exterior, including a matt option.

Mercedes-Maybach says the G 650



The G 650 Landulet

will provide an "unforgettable off-road experience", thanks to its portal axles that provide 450mm of ground clearance.

It also gains 100 per cent differential locks, as well as a low-range gearbox. It will make its public debut at next

month's Geneva Motor Show while the launch will start in the autumn.

No indication of price has yet been given, although a Mercedes-AMG G 63 costs from £135,905 – so customers should expect a significant advance on that figure.



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Revving up for a full season of race thrills

WITH testing in full swing and motorbikes being fine tuned before the season opener, it's time to have a look at our region's top club racers.

From the ultra-competitive Thundersport GB, to endurance racing, Darley Moor championships and the road racing scene, there's plenty to keep fans occupied over the spring and summer months, right into autumn.

Pete Wright, aged 51, from Tividale, and team-mate Martyn Silvester, 42, from Blackheath, have just returned from testing in Spain.

The Black Country pair, who compete under the double22-two racing banner, will be back in the No Limit Racing Endurance Cup this year, but will move up to 600cc after dominating the clubman class during their debut season in 2016.

Lloyd Shelley, 33, from Burntwood, will be returning to the Darley Moor this year – but his focus will be a first stint in the Thundersport GB Elite Class series on his Triumph 675.

Neil Lloyd, 46, from Wednesbury, will be back on board his Honda RVF400 this year. After finishing runner-up in two classes at the Darley Moor Club Championships in 2016 he will return to the series – but his main focus will be his first shot at road racing.

Goal-line technology 'would be welcome'

STAFFORDSHIRE'S former Premier League referee Alan Wiley has welcomed the news that goal-line technology may be introduced in the Championship from next season.

The 56-year-old, from Burntwood, refereed in England's top flight from 1999-2010 and is pleased that EFL bosses have agreed – in principle – that the second tier shall follow the lead set by the Premier League.

"It's excellent news," said Wiley about the possibility of the Hawk-eye system being introduced in the Championship. Anything that helps make the right decision. It's been very positive in the top division and it'll work in the Championship.

"It's a proven system. Once a decision is made – it's goal or no goal – there's no questioning. Teams work all week to score goals and stop conceding goals so we need something proving it one way or the other."

As to whether the law could be spread to Leagues One and Two, he added: "It would be good if we could but I think it's ultimately down to costs."

Video assistance for officials has also been muted, and while Wiley believes help would be beneficial – he doesn't want the game to lose the human element.

Rutter set to power back on electric bike

MICHAEL RUTTER could be back competing in all seven Isle of Man TT races after revealing plans to test out a new electric bike in America.

The Bridgnorth star has also joined former team-mate Stephen Thompson, who is now running his own Thompson Plastering outfit after recovering from an horrific injury, to race on the island.

Thompson was rushed to hospital after a three-bike smash at the North West 200, in Northern Ireland, in 2015 while racing for the Bathams team.

He eventually lost part of his arm the following year but having felt the pull of the racing scene return, he is now ready to get back in the business of motorbikes – something Rutter was more than happy to help out with.

"Steve had a bad crash and lost his arm. He had a few problems after the crash but he really missed being involved with racing," he said. "He wanted to set up his own team and ours will be helping out."

"He'll be working with us but will have his own awning and his own team. I'll be riding a Yamaha R6 600cc under his banner for the two supersport races."

Rutter will also be back competing in the Lightweight TT on a bike that has already brought him success.



Ron Flowers – one of the greatest

Ron's at the head of the Flowers dynasty

HE'S one of the greatest players in the history of Wolverhampton Wanderers. And now Ron Flowers is hoping to watch his grandson follow in his illustrious footsteps after the 20-year-old signed a professional contract with Burnley.

A commanding centre-half, Harry Flowers had been turning out for Staffordshire side Brocton earlier this season. But after being spotted by a Clarets scout, he was offered, and accepted, a pro deal at the Lancashire club.

And the youngster knows his grandfather is the

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joseph Masi

His form in gold and black also allowed him to shine on the international stage

perfect role model if he ever needs advice. Born in Edlington, a mining village in South Yorkshire, Ron also had to move away to achieve his footballing ambitions.

He was initially spotted as a teenager by Doncaster Rovers before coming to the attention of Wolves scouts.

But his move to the West Midlands had to wait, with his father Jack insisting he had to finish an apprenticeship with train firm LNER Locomotive before he left Yorkshire.

Rescue

Fortunately, Wolves manager Stan Cullis came to the rescue. He spoke to Jack and offered his son maximum wages for a 17-year-old, meaning that Ron would be earning more a week than his dad did. And reluctantly Jack gave in.

But more disruption was just around the corner. The following year, Ron was called up for National Service.

Applying to the RAF, he completed his initial training at Hednesford followed by a posting to Cosford.

It was during the six weeks of training that Ron made his first-team debut for Wolves against Blackpool.

And while the Molineux men lost, Ron marked the occasion with a goal.

A terrific athlete and fine passer of the ball, Flowers went on to establish himself in the Wolves side for the next 15 years, playing at either wing-half or centre-half.

And it was his partnership with Peter Broadbent that formed the bedrock of the Wolves teams that

won the League Championship in 1954, 1958 and 1959, as well as the FA Cup in 1960.

In total, Flowers made 512 appearances for the club between 1952 and 1967, scoring 37 goals – putting him sixth in the club's all-time list of appearance makers.

His form in gold and black also allowed him to shine on the international stage.

In 49 appearances for England, Flowers scored 10 goals and played in the 1962 World Cup. He was also part of Sir Alf Ramsey's squad that famously won the competition in 1966.

Flowers didn't kick a ball in anger during that tournament. But there is no doubt he still played his part.

Flowers suspected then, as he still does now, that he was included in Alf Ramsey's 22-man squad for the finals for a specific reason.

The oldest member of the group, he was there to set an example.

Standby

"I was there to do a job," he said in an exclusive interview with our sister daily the Express & Star. "As far as I had been concerned, my England career was finished."

"I hadn't been expecting the call."

Flowers also came a whisker away from playing in the biggest game in English football. Before the final in 1966, Jack Charlton had told Ramsey he was struggling with a cold. And that prompted the boss to put Flowers on stand-by.

"The message was, be ready," explains Flowers.

"It was not, as you might expect however, the cause of any nerves, or indeed a restless night. It didn't make any difference to my thinking."

"I knew whatever he might have come down with, he would play."

"Do you really think Jack Charlton was going to miss out on the World Cup final because of a cold? It would have needed to have been one heck of a cold."

After retiring from professional football Ron opened his shop Ron Flowers Sports in Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

Today it is run by his son, and Harry's dad, Glenn.



Ron Flowers playing for England in 1959. He made 49 appearances for England



Wolves' midfielder Jack Price shakes hands with Ron Flowers



Wolves legend Ron Flowers pictured in his Molineux glory days



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Clarke now unbeaten in 15 as a pro

LENNOX Clarke made it 15 professional victories as he defeated the resilient Bartlomiej Gafka in his toughest test to date at the Banks's Stadium.

The unbeaten Halesowen prospect did enough to take all eight rounds receiving an 80-72 score from the judges. The 25-year-old was sharp throughout but his Polish opponent gave a warning he would be no push over in the first as he caught Clarke with a heavy combination.

The super middleweight was battling for the centre of the ring and trying to tie Gafka up on the ropes but the 28-year-old powered his way out of trouble and kept recapturing the centre spot. As the fight reached the halfway stage Gafka appeared to be growing into the contest but it was Clarke who was still doing the most work without hurting his opponent.

The sixth and seventh round reduced Gafka's face to a bloody mess. Despite the damage the only time the travelling fighter was on the canvas was when he slipped in the seventh. It was another close round in the eighth but Clarke did enough to earn a clean sweep and move a step closer to the title shot he is searching for.

West Bromwich's Joshua Stokes put on a masterclass in body punching as he got off to the perfect start in his professional career. The debutant looked powerful as he punished Mitch Mitchell with crunching hooks, taking a 40-36 victory.

Former kickboxing World Champion Brad Foster, from Lichfield, earned the only stoppage of the night, needing just two and a half minutes of the first round to finish Leonard Rafael and record his sixth professional win.

In the opening fight of the night Connor Parker of Swadlincote defeated Liam Richards in a one-sided contest to earn his second professional win.

Female athlete has made Black Country triathlete history

LAST weekend saw the start of the Duathlon season for Black Country Triathletes who entered the early season Just Ride Duathlon held at Worcester, which consisted of a 5km run, 28km bike ride followed by a 2.5 km run to finish.

Among the entrants were British professional triathlete local girl, Jodie Stimpson who finished first female back in a time of 1:08:47.

Jon Link completed the race in a time of 1:14:37 finishing sixth overall and fourth in the Senior Male 16-39 years age group and Julie Black came home in a time of 1:42:46 finishing fourth female in the Vet 40 age group.

The Black Country Triathlete awards saw overall club series winner prize go to Lauren Evans, the first time a female triathlete has won this title. Awards voted for by club members were given to Nigel Briscoe for male triathlete, Lauren Evans female triathlete, Shameer Gopal most improved triathlete, Lee Moreton received the Graham Shinton Award, with Matt Price as swimmer of the year. Junior triathletes of the year were Reece Ashfield and Abbie Kennard.

Darryl riding high as Brummies' captain



Darryl Ritchings

BIRMINGHAM have named Darryl Ritchings as club captain for the 2017 season. The 22-year-old takes over from former team-mate Tom Perry who rejoined parent club Cradley over the winter.

Surestop Brummies boss Graham Drury is delighted to offer Ritchings the captaincy and believes the Wiltshire racer has plenty to bring to the role.

Said Drury: "When Tom Perry went back to Cradley, not only did we lose a good speedway rider, we lost a good team captain as well. After completing

Speedway

the team for the year ahead, I sat down and thought carefully about the captain's position. I looked at everyone in the team and opted for Darryl for a couple of reasons.

"Firstly, he's our one heat-leader who is solely focused on his team place at Birmingham, for the start of the season at least, and that means he'll be able to carry that continuity even when some of our other riders have to fulfil their dou-

bling-up commitments. However, most importantly I went for Darryl because of how long he's been in the game. He may only be 22, but he's got a hell of a lot of experience behind him and that will stand him and the team in good stead.

"The captain's role isn't just about shouting 'heads' or 'tails' before a meeting, there's so much more to it behind the scenes. Darryl is a sort of liaison between all parties if you like and I can't emphasise how much of an important role it is. I think we're in for another exciting season at Perry Barr."

Promotion hopes are dealt blow

Stourbridge 0 Warrington 1

WARRINGTON substitute Ruben Jerome consigned Stourbridge to a third straight league defeat in a spiky clash which left the home dugout enraged.

Jerome latched on to Michael Monaghan's flick from a long punt forward and lashed into the roof of the net from the edge of the box for the only goal with 17 minutes to play on Monday night.

Warrington had arrived late, leading to a 10-minute delay to kick off. But their time wasting was a feature of a frustrating night which saw the visitors become the first team to shut out the Glassboys twice this season.

Stourbridge 1 Blyth Spartans 2

ON Saturday, injury-stricken Stourbridge suffered a setback to their Evo-Stik Premier promotion prospects after being well beaten 2-1 by leaders Blyth Spartans in front of a bumper Amblecote crowd of 1,376.

The Glassboys were already forced to rule out the league's leading marksman Luke Benbow together with FA Cup heroes Chris Lait, Jack Duggan and Chris Knight.

But matters turned even worse when dangerman Matt Dodd broke down injured just before kick-off and had to be replaced by Drew Canavan.

Consequently it was Spartans who made all the early running and only brave goalkeeping by Matt Gould kept them at bay.

Gould was beaten on 24 minutes when Robbie Dale rifled home a free-kick from fully 30 yards out and Danny Maguire headed home the second on half-time.

Tom Tonks struck a 30-yard consolation with virtually the last kick of the match.

Stourbridge travel to Whitby on Saturday before entertaining Stafford Rangers next Monday.

One goal edges out inconsistent Veltz

Warrington 1 Halesowen Town 0

HALESOWEN continued their inconsistent Evo-Stik Premier form, falling to a first-half injury-time strike by Danny Hattersley.

Ethan Delaney had Halesowen's only first half effort on goal on 29 minutes, but it went wide. Warrington took the lead right on half-time when Hattersley shot home.

In the second half, Joshua Askeew and Connor McCarthy went close for the home side. Then, four minutes from time, Delaney saw red for Halesowen after a challenge on Billy Smart and it was game over for John Hill's men.

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HALES WIN IS TAYLOR-MADE

Syston 7 Old Halesonians 22

THE return of prop Rich Taylor was a welcome boost for the first team in a must-win league fixture.

But it would be no easy game against a side who had beaten leaders Nuneaton the week before.

It took until 28 minutes for the first score as Luke Smith sprinted clear. It was 12-0 at half-time as Taylor celebrated his return, breaking the line for a brilliant try which Chris Hooper converted.

Hales made changes at the break with Rob Butler on for Matt Young at prop and Rich Sawyer on for Tom King in the second row.

Both replacements made their mark in the scrum and Sawyer was aggressive in the loose play. He was involved in a 60th minute score that saw Joe Collingham go over.

Syston regrouped and within five minutes had a rare break through the Hales defence for a converted try under the posts.

Corner

The visitors put the game to bed with a terrific try involving George Grieve, Collingham, Neil Mason, Ben Tibbetts and Carl Robinson, Smith going over in the corner.

Hales meet Sheffield at home on Saturday in the rearranged league fixture, kick off 2.15 pm.

Syston 2nds 37 Old Halesonians 2nds 10

IT was not such a good day for Old Hales seconds, who had started well and had the majority of early possession, but squandered a 10-point lead.

A penalty try, converted by Andy Tromans, and a penalty from the same player put Hales in front. Syston forced their way back into the game with a converted try, but Hales led 10-7 at the break.

Within minutes of the second half, a converted try put Syston in front and two more penalties stretched the lead. With Hales giving up possession too easily, Syston added three more tries.

The third team remain second in the league after beating Moseley Oak seconds 46-10, with tries from Jon Harris (2), Dan Smith, Adam Harper, Brad Cogswell, Tom Warrington and Harry Higgs (2), with three conversions from tom Williams. The under-16s beat Moseley 19-17.

Chance to line up for Baggies



James Chambers and Dele Adebola, flanked by coaches Aaron Moses Garvey and Ashley Malcolm

A CHANCE to play for the Baggies is up for grabs, courtesy of Mary Stevens Hospice.

The hospice is offering the opportunity to represent Albion in a charity match.

A team of Albion legends will play against a Stourbridge FC XI at the War Memorial Athletic Ground, on Sunday, April 2, with Darren "Big Dave" Moore the first star revealed to be turning out to help raise funds for the Hagley Road hospice.

The organisations involved have agreed to auction the opportunity for one person to enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime match day experience, lining up alongside some of the club's biggest names. The auction will be done via email, and

will remain open to bids until 5pm on March 24. To submit a bid, email Amanda Bowen at amanda@mshfundraising.co.uk with your bid, the name and age of the player you're bidding for and the best contact number you can be reached on.

Tickets for the game will be £5 for adults and free for under-16s, and can be bought at the turnstile on the day.

The event will start at 1pm with a big family fun day and mascot race, before the two teams kick off at 2.30pm.

For more, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk or the Hospice Facebook page or call 01384 377778 for further details.

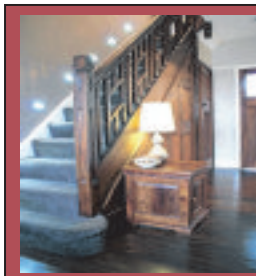
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